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ATAARI FORCE™





ATARI FORCE



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PART TWO

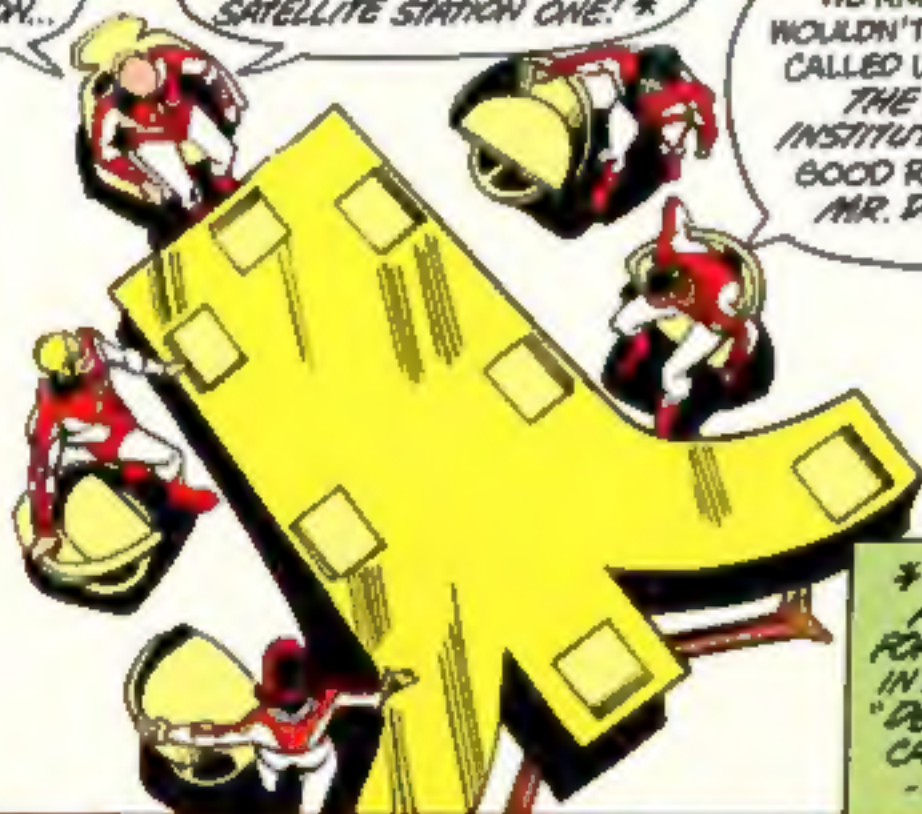
CHAPTER ONE:

BERSERK

COMMANDER
CHAMPION...
DOCTOR ORION...

...THANK YOU FOR MAKING
THE TRIP HERE FROM SOLAR
SATELLITE STATION ONE! *

WE KNOW YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE
CALLED US BACK TO
THE ATARI
INSTITUTE WITHOUT
GOOD REASON,
MR. DIRECTOR!




* SEE
ATARI
FORCE #1,
IN ATARI'S
"DEFENDER"
CARTRIDGE.
--EDITOR.

BUT WHY SUCH
TIGHT SECURITY?

WE HAVE WHAT WE
THINK ARE GOOD
REASONS, DOCTOR.

PROJECT:
MULTIVERSE IS
TOP SECRET--





AH, 'TIS A RUDE
AWAKENING YOU'RE
IN FOR, MR.
DIRECTOR!

SAD TO SAY, YOUR
DEAR SECURITY
ISN'T QUITE SO
TIGHT AS YOU
MIGHT THINK!

--AND FOR THE
SAKE OF OUR WAR-
WEARY WORLD, WHAT'S
REVEALED TO YOU
TODAY--MUST NEVER
LEAVE THIS ROOM!

THE YEAR:
2005 A.D.

THE PLACE:
THE NORTHCAL HEAD-
QUARTERS OF THE ATARI
TECHNOLOGY AND
RESEARCH INSTITUTE, IN
THAT PART OF NORTH
AMERICA THAT USED TO
BE KNOWN AS CALIFORNIA
BEFORE THE "BREAK-UP..."

THE SITUATION:
A WORLD IN CRISIS...

FOR ALL
YOUR FINE
TECHNOLOGY--

-- ALL YOUR
RADAR AND HEAT-
SENSITIVE
SENSORS--

-- A MERE SLIP OF
A GIRL HAS MANAGED
TO MAKE HER WAY INTO
THE VERY HEART OF
YOUR "WELL-GUARDED"
ATARI COMPLEX!



SURE,
AND IT'S
AS I
ALWAYS
SAY--

"ANY
SECURITY
SYSTEM CAN
BE BEATEN.

"ALL IT TAKES
IS TIME--

-- AND A
LITTLE
INSENUITY!"



TAKE THIS *SOUND-PROOF* PLASTIGLAS DOME, NOW.

IT'S SUPPOSED TO KEEP AN EAVES-DROPPER FROM HEARIN' THE SECRETS BEING WHISPERED BELOW.

BUT, WITH A PORTABLE STETHA-SCAN...

...YOUR VOICES COME THROUGH AS CLEAR AS *SUNRISE* OVER DUBLIN BAY!

--PROJECT: MULTIVERSE IS THE CODE NAME FOR AN ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE *DIMENSIONAL* BARRIER THAT SEPARATES US FROM AN INFINITY OF ALTERNATE WORLDS!

"ALTERNATE" WORLDS?

WORLDS WHOSE HISTORY DIVERGES FROM OUR OWN, COMMANDER.

BUT ISN'T THAT JUST A FANTASY?

PURE SCIENCE FICTION?

PLEASE, DOCTOR...LET THE DIRECTOR EXPLAIN...

...WITHOUT ANY MORE INTERRUPTIONS!

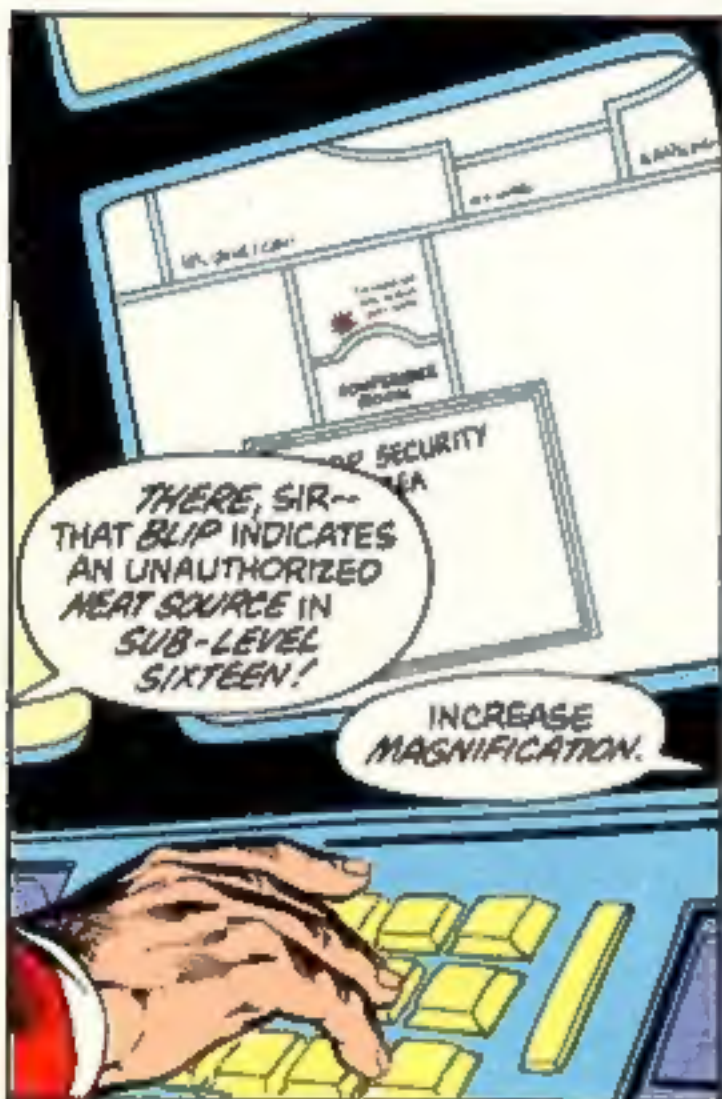


SECURITY BASE STATION, SUB-LEVEL SEVEN...

CAPTAIN, I'VE GOT A WEIRD READING ON THE INTERNAL MONITOR.

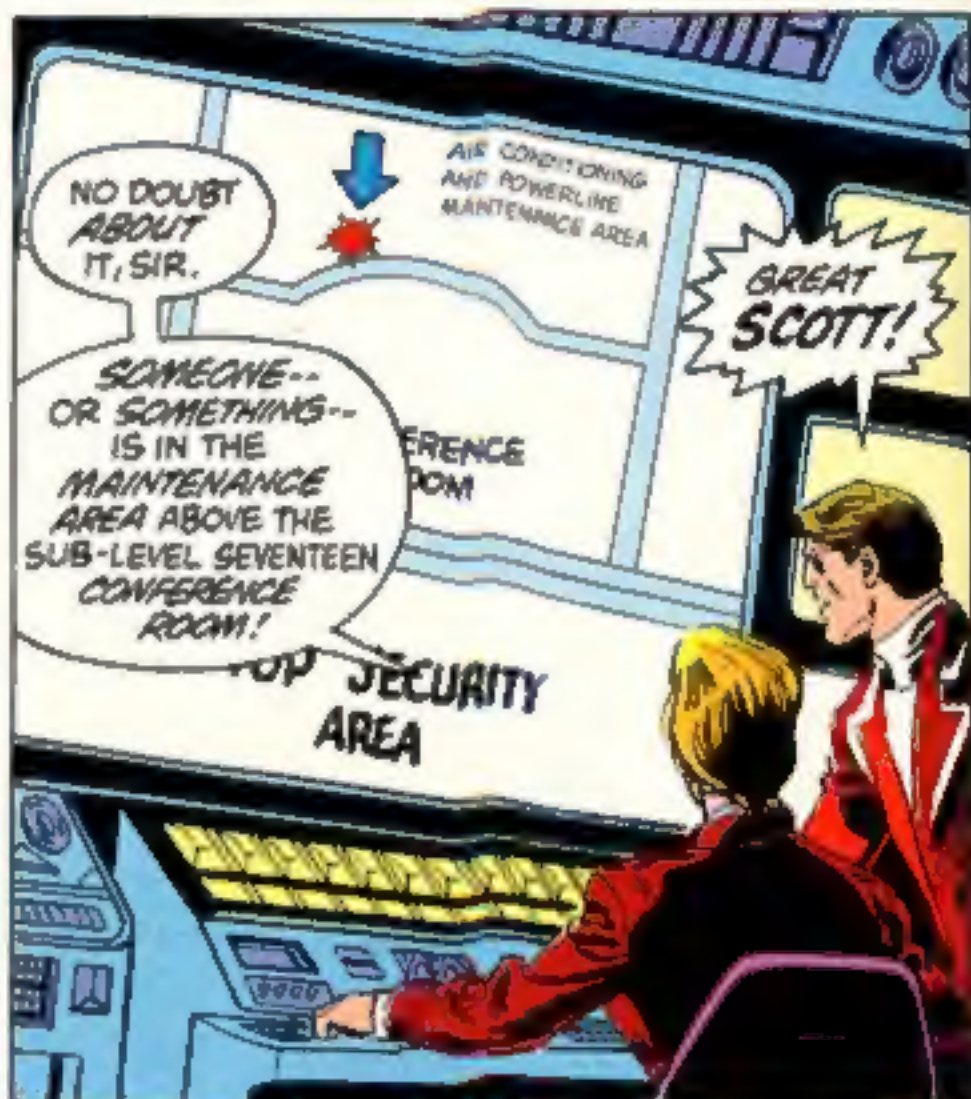
IT COULD BE ANOTHER SHORT-CIRCUIT, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND--

PUT IT ON THE SCREEN, TECHNICIAN. LET'S SEE WHAT YOU HAVE.



THERE, SIR-- THAT BLIP INDICATES AN UNAUTHORIZED HEAT SOURCE IN SUB-LEVEL SIXTEEN!

INCREASE MAGNIFICATION.



NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, SIR.

SOMEONE-- OR SOMETHING-- IS IN THE MAINTENANCE AREA ABOVE THE SUB-LEVEL SEVENTEEN CONFERENCE ROOM!

AIR CONDITIONING AND POWERLINE MAINTENANCE AREA

GREAT SCOTT!

TOP SECURITY AREA



INTRUDER ALERT!

WE HAVE A "BERSERK SITUATION" IN QUADRANT SL-16!

LOCAL UNITS RESPOND IMMEDIATELY..





EH? WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO SINGH?

HE LOOKS
LIKE HE'S
GOING
INTO A
TRANCE...

NOT A TRANCE,
BUT RATHER, A
REVERIE...

...AN UNWILLING FLASH-
BACK OF MEMORY TO A
TIME TWENTY YEARS BEFORE,
IN THE CROWDED STREETS
OF NEW DELHI, WHEN A
MUCH YOUNGER MOHANDAS
SINGH LIVED THE WILD LIFE
OF AN URBAN ORPHAN IN
THE WORLD'S MOST
DESPERATE CITY...

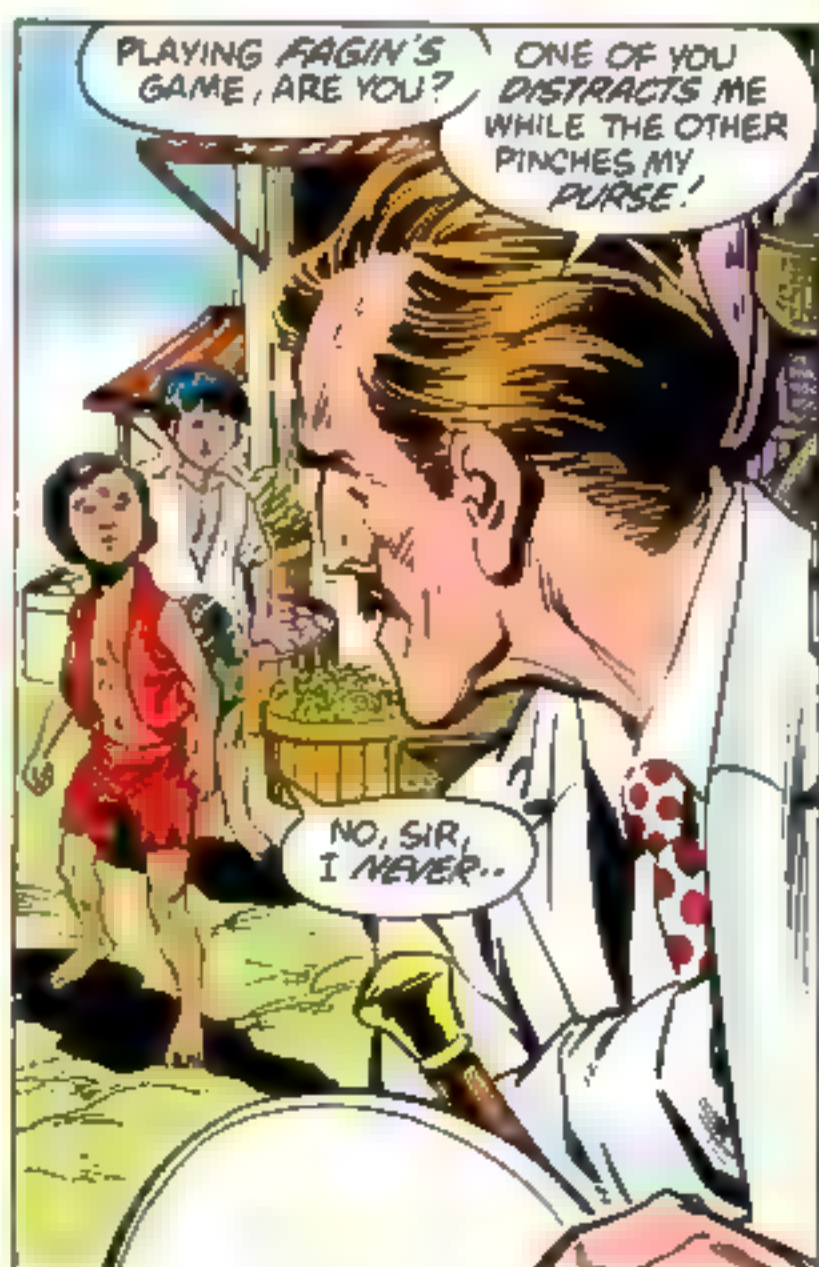
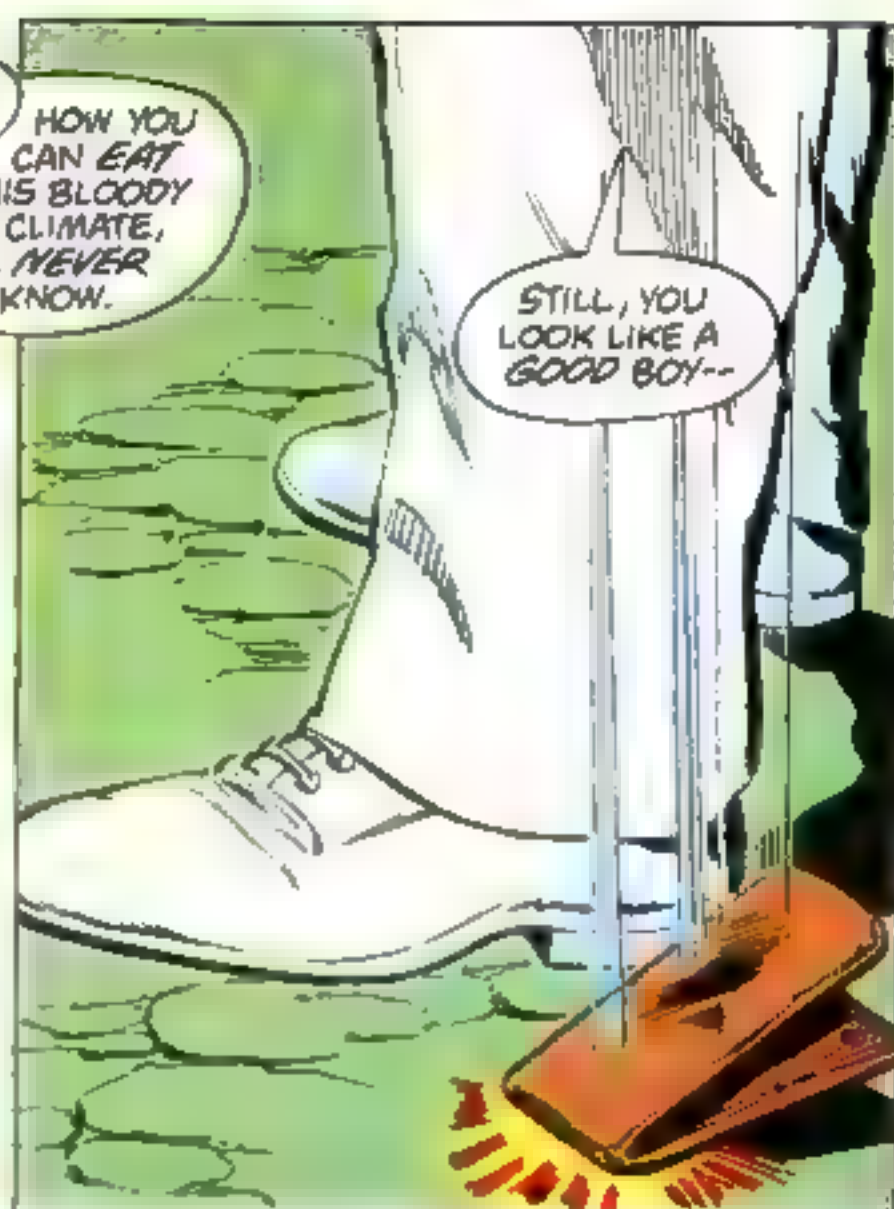
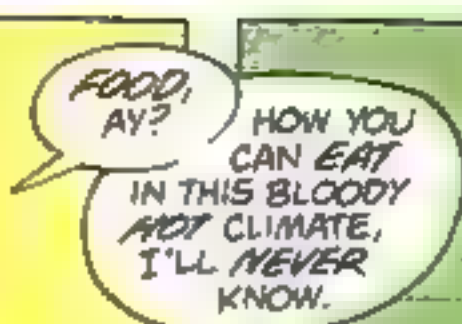
HE WAS POOR--
HE WENT
HUNGRY EVERY
DAY, OR SO IT
SEEMED--

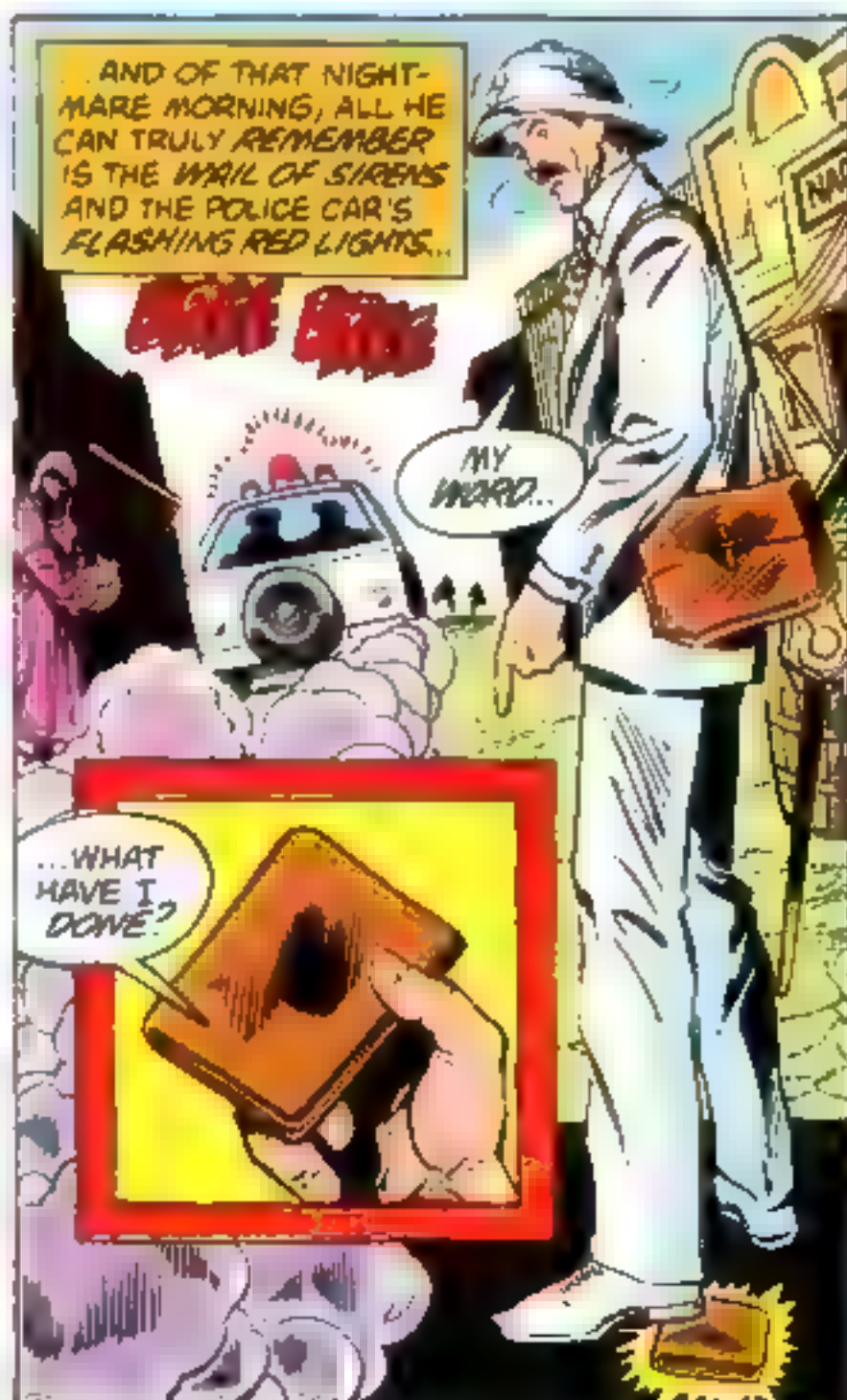
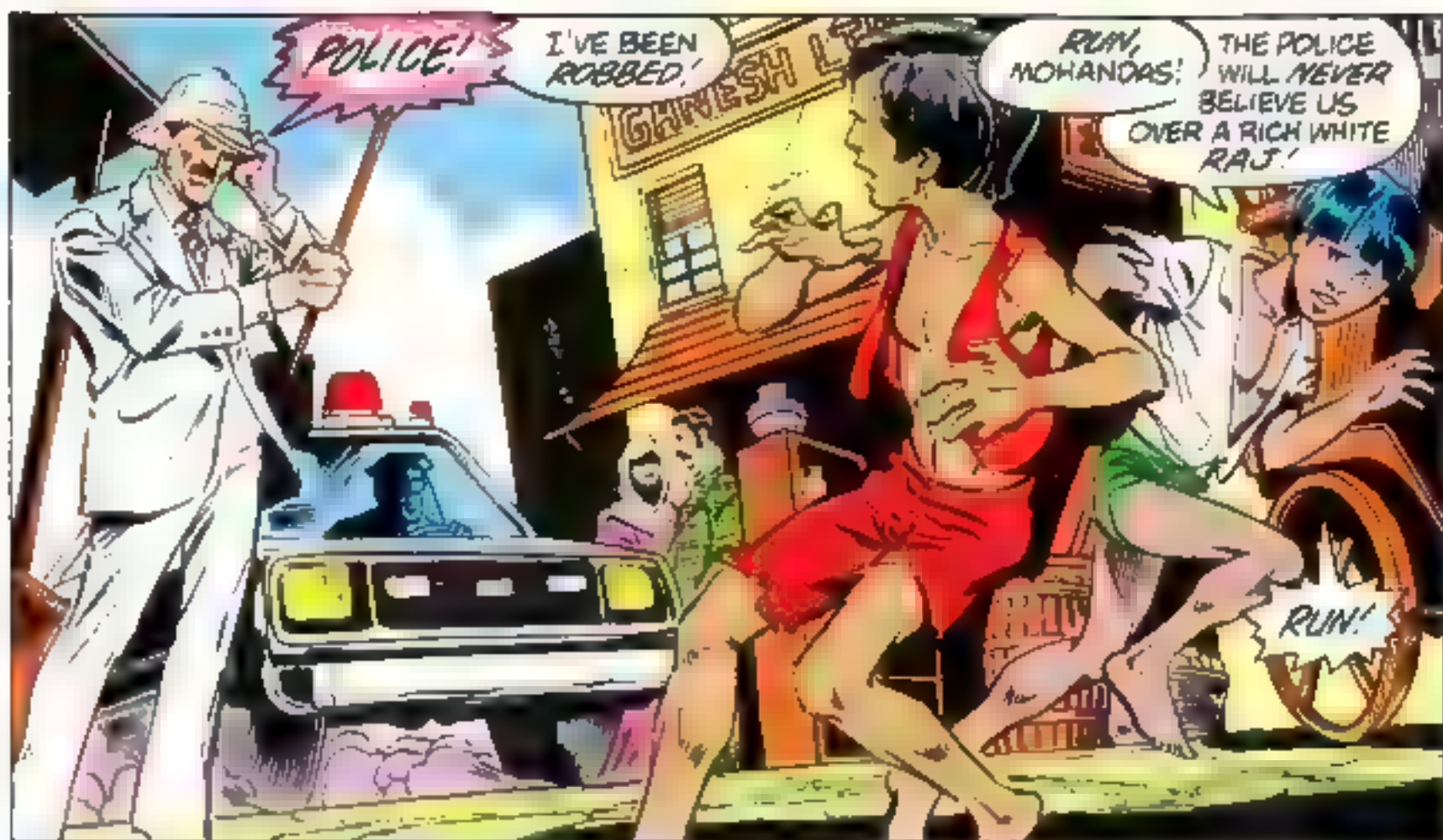
--BUT IN ONE
AREA OF HIS
LIFE, HE WAS
RICH:

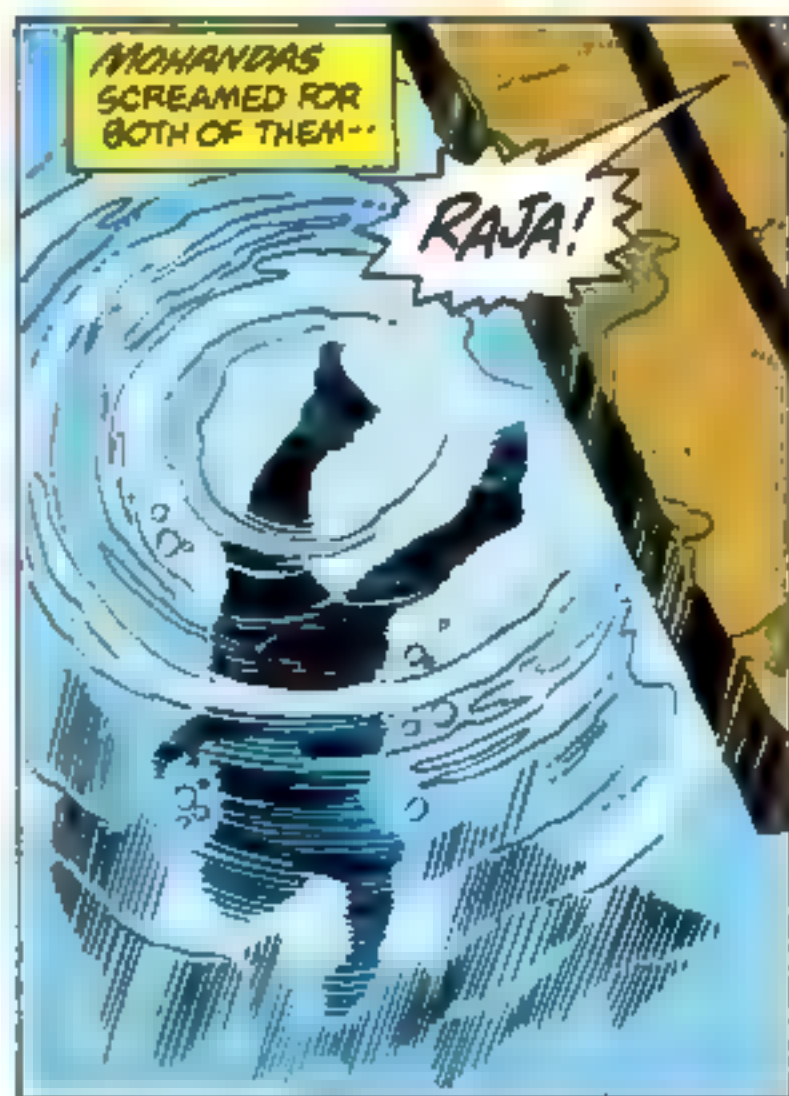
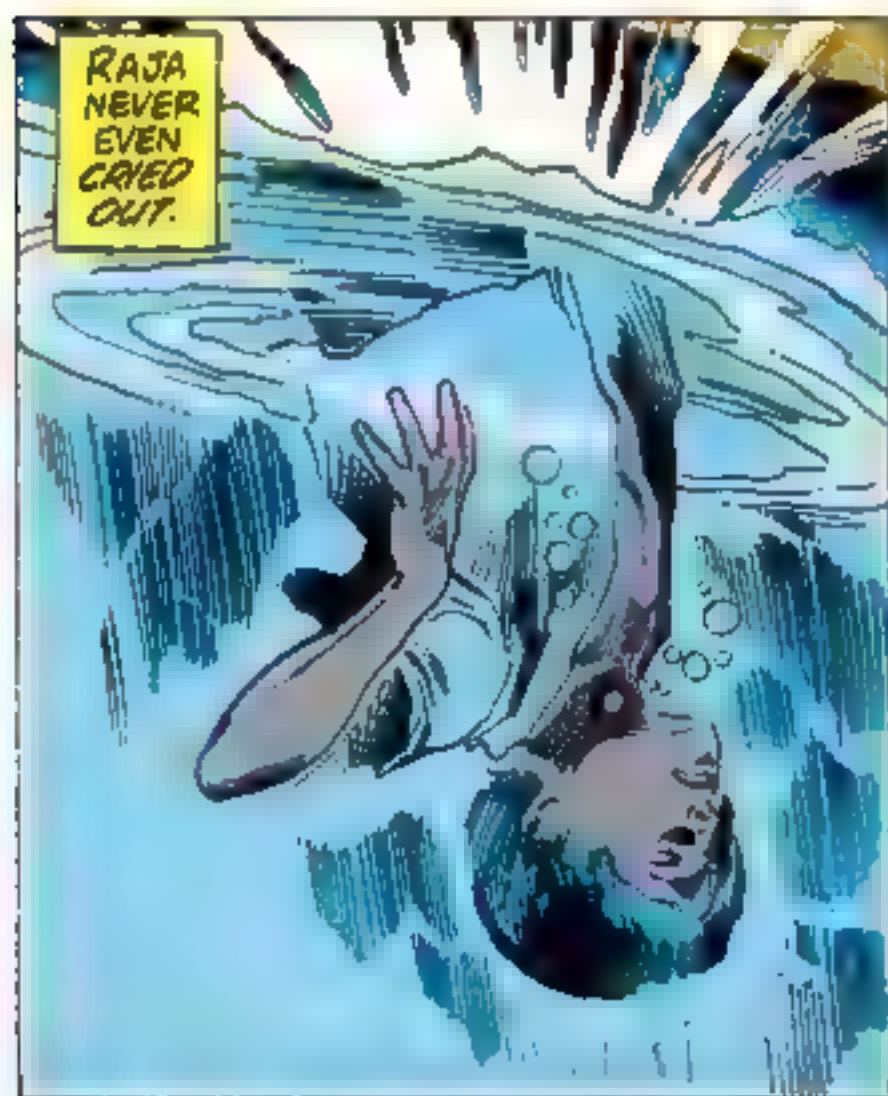
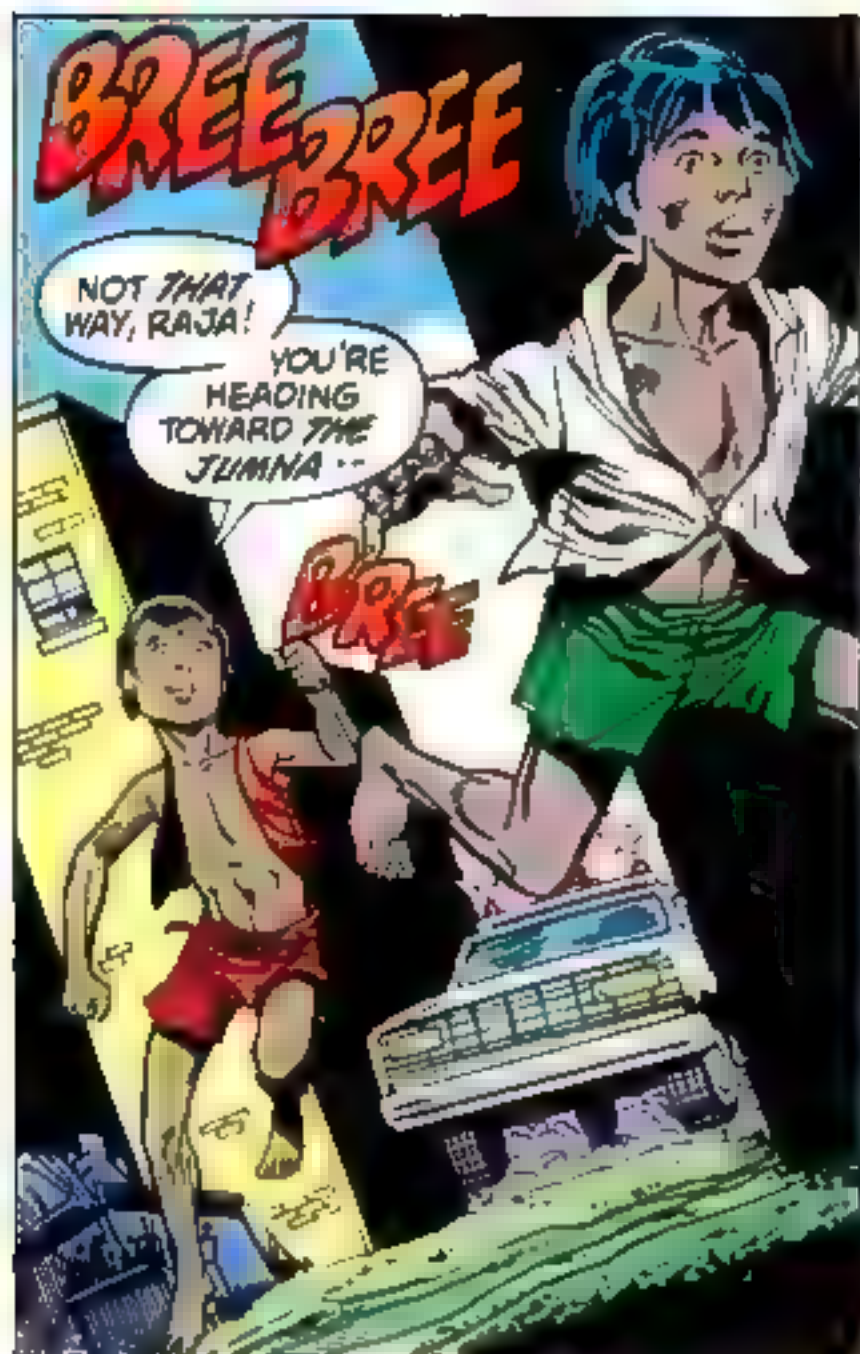
HE HAD A FRIEND...
A FELLOW URCHIN
WHO CALLED
HIMSELF RAJA.

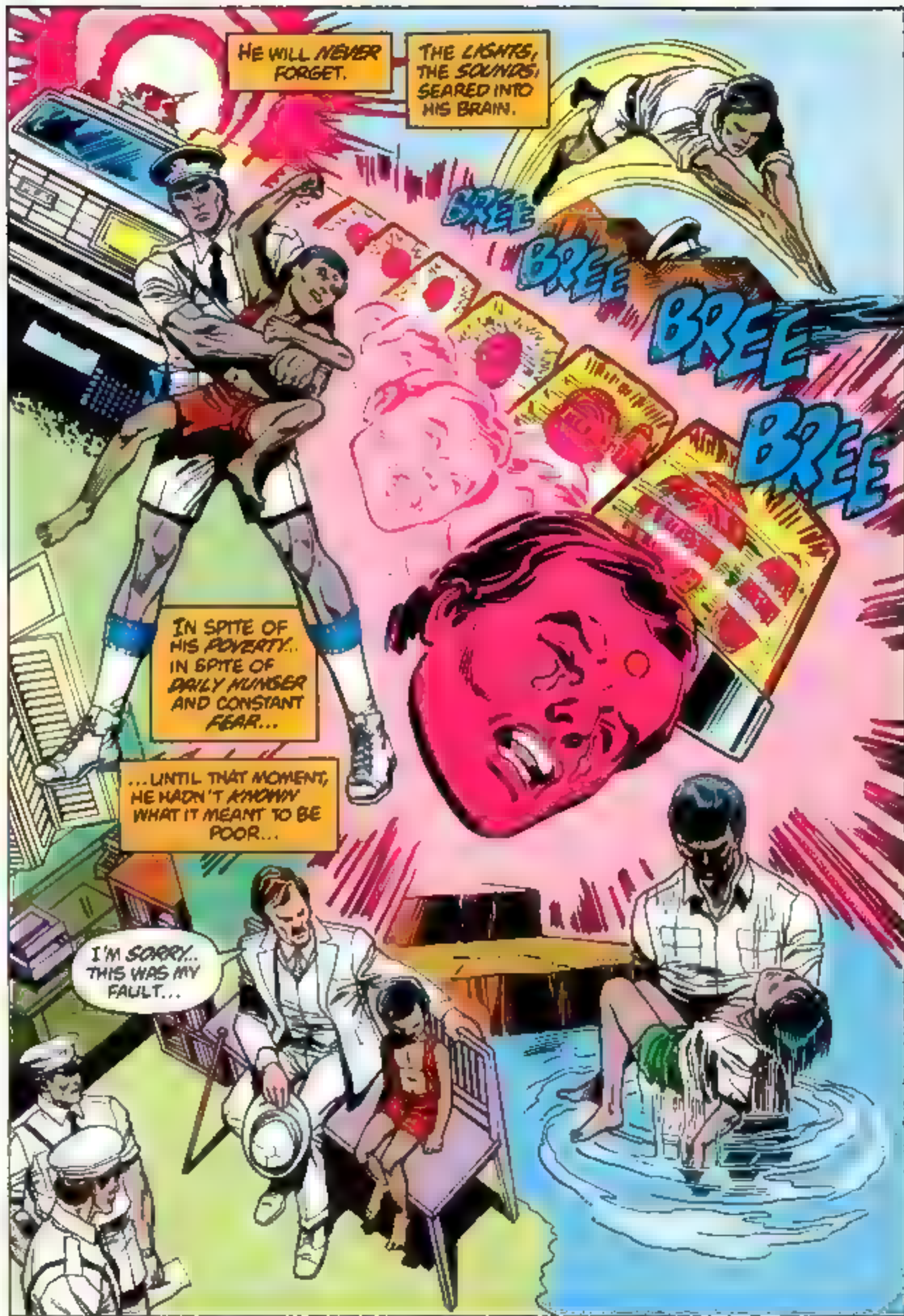
MOHANDAS--
WAKE UP--
A TOURIST!

A BRITISH RAB,
TOO--MAYBE WORTH
A FEW COINS, IF
YOU BEG RIGHT!









HE WILL NEVER
FORGET.

THE LIGHTS,
THE SOUNDS,
SEARED INTO
HIS BRAIN.

IN SPITE OF
HIS POVERTY...
IN SPITE OF
DAILY HUNGER
AND CONSTANT
FEAR...

...UNTIL THAT MOMENT,
HE HADN'T KNOWN
WHAT IT MEANT TO BE
POOR...

I'M SORRY...
THIS WAS MY
FAULT...

...I WAS THE WORST KIND OF FOOL, SEEING WHAT I EXPECTED TO SEE--NOT WHAT WAS.

MY NAME IS MILES--
PROFESSOR STANLEY
MILES.

I'M
HERE FOR A
SYMPOSIUM-- THE WORLD
GEOPHYSICAL YEAR, YOU
KNOW.

AHM... BUT OF
COURSE, YOU
DON'T KNOW.

SEE HERE. I
CAN'T BRING YOUR
FRIEND BACK TO
LIFE... BUT PER-
HAPS I CAN
GIVE YOU A
LIFE...



BUT SINGH WASN'T
LISTENING. IN HIS MIND,
HE STILL HEARD THAT
TERRIBLE SIREN WAIL--
STILL SAW THOSE
FLASHING LIGHTS--

-- AND EVEN NOW,
TWENTY YEARS LATER,
THEY THROW HIM INTO
A KIND OF TRANCE,
UNTIL--

-- SINGH...
SINGH,
SNAP OUT
OF IT!

ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?

Y-YES... YES, COMMANDER,
VERY MUCH ALL RIGHT.

I WAS JUST--
EH?

PROFESSOR MILES PAID HIS
DEBT IN FULL, BY SENDING MOHANDAS
SINGH TO THE FINEST SCHOOLS ON
THREE CONTINENTS, AND RECOG-
NIZING THE FINE MIND THAT HAD
ALMOST BEEN SUFFOCATED BY
OVERWHELMING POVERTY..

...A MIND THAT NOW
FOCUSES WITH INSTANT
ALERTNESS ON NEW
INPUT, CAUSING MOHANDAS
SINGH TO CRY OUT:

COMMANDER,
DIRECTOR--THERE
IS THE CAUSE
OF THE ALARM!

A
SPY!

SO MUCH FOR SIX
YEARS OF TRAINING
IN THE MARINES--
I NEVER EVEN
LOOKED UP!

I THOUGHT
YOU TOLD US
PROJECT: MULTIVERSE
WAS TOP SECRET,
PEREZ!

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
MARTIN-- SECURITY
WAS SO TIGHT--!


DEAR LADY, IF I
RAN MY MEDICAL
RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT
THE WAY SECURITY
APPARENTLY HAS
RUN THIS
OPERATION--



OKAY,
SISTER,
END OF
THE
ROAD!

WH-WHA--?

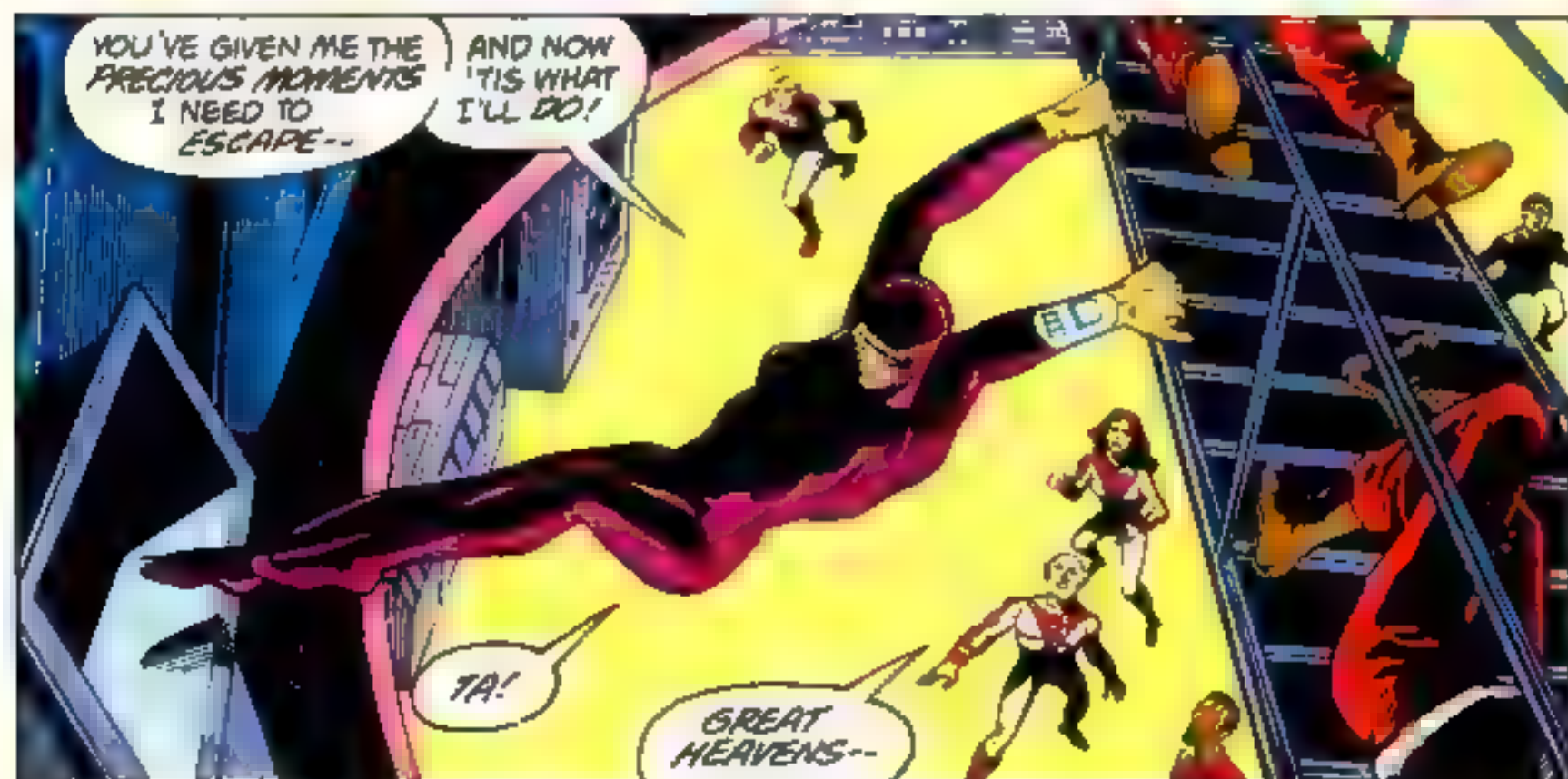
--I'D SOON
HAVE NO
PATIENTS
LEFT ALIVE!



SARGE! SHE'S
JUMPIN' AROUND LIKE
SOME KIND OF
KANGAROO!

TOO CLOSE TO
USE MY WEAPONS-
LASER WITHOUT
HITTING YOU!

GOTTA GET
SOME ROOM
TO MANEUVER
OR SHE'LL--



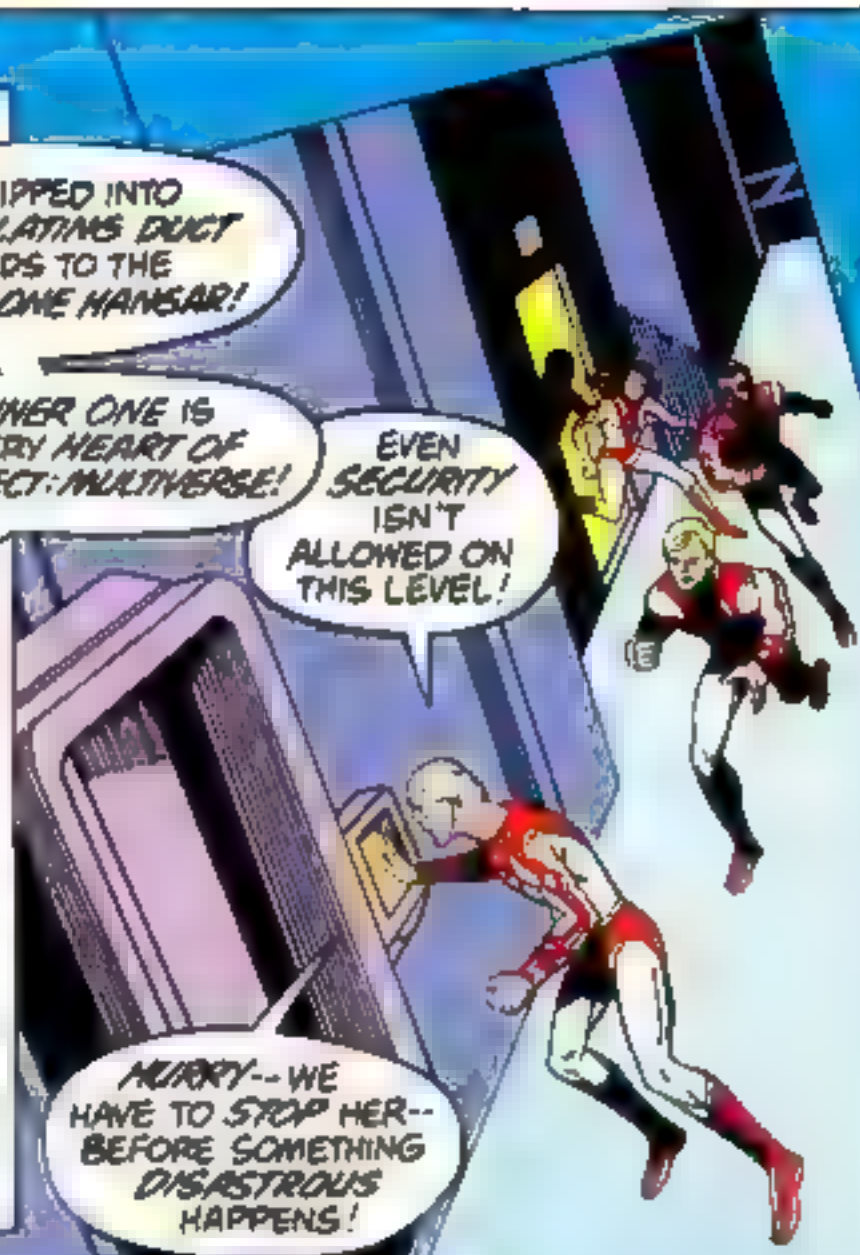


...SHE'S SLIPPED INTO
THE VENTILATING DUCT
THAT LEADS TO THE
SCANNER ONE HANGAR!

SCANNER ONE IS
THE VERY HEART OF
PROJECT: MULTIVERSE!

EVEN
SECURITY
ISN'T
ALLOWED ON
THIS LEVEL!

HURRY-- WE
HAVE TO STOP HER--
BEFORE SOMETHING
DISASTROUS
HAPPENS!



THE PROTECTIVE HATCH UNSEALS
WITH A PNEUMATIC HISS, AND
COMMANDER CHAMPION LEADS
THE OTHERS THROUGH THE DOUBLE-
LOCK... DRAWING UP SHORT ON
THE FAR SIDE...

... HIS BREATH LITERALLY
STOLEN BY THE
SIGHT BEFORE
HIM...




SO THAT'S
THE BIG
SECRET--



CHAPTER TWO:

UNMASKED



--SCANNER
ONE IS A
SPACESHIP!

OH, MARTIN..
DON'T BE SUCH
A BLIND IDIOT!

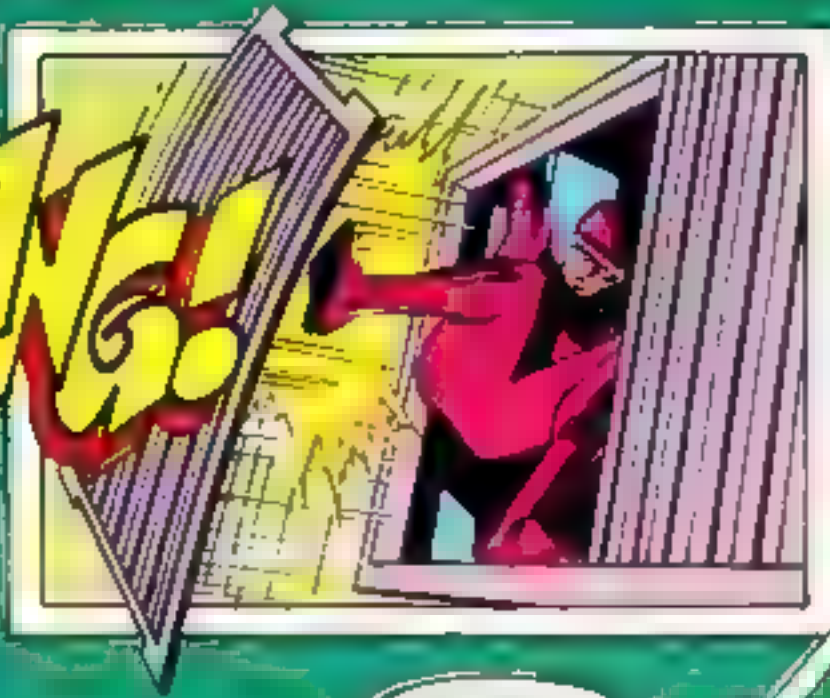
HOW CAN A
SPACESHIP TAKE
OFF FROM INSIDE
A SEALED ROOM?

PEREZ, YOU
MUST LEARN TO
CURB THAT SHARP
TONGUE OF YOURS!

COMMANDER
CHAMPION CAN BE
FORGIVEN FOR
JUMPING TO
CONCLUSIONS.

FOR NOW, LET ME ASSURE
YOU, COMMANDER--YOU
COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG!

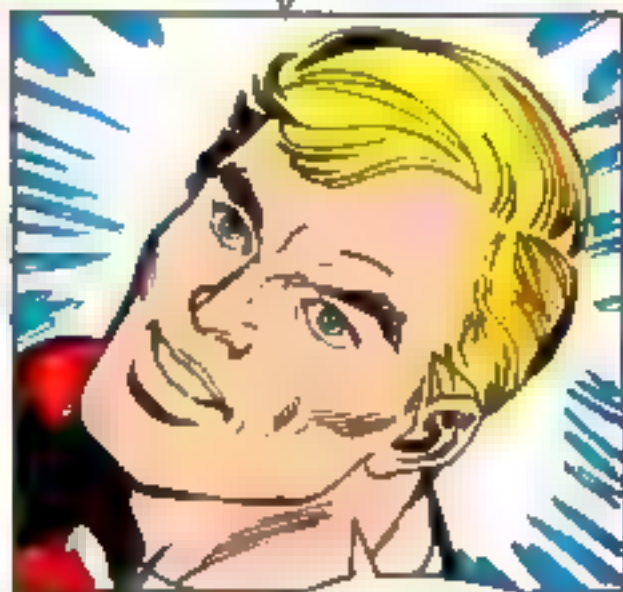
CLANG!



IT'S HER--
THE
INTRUDER!

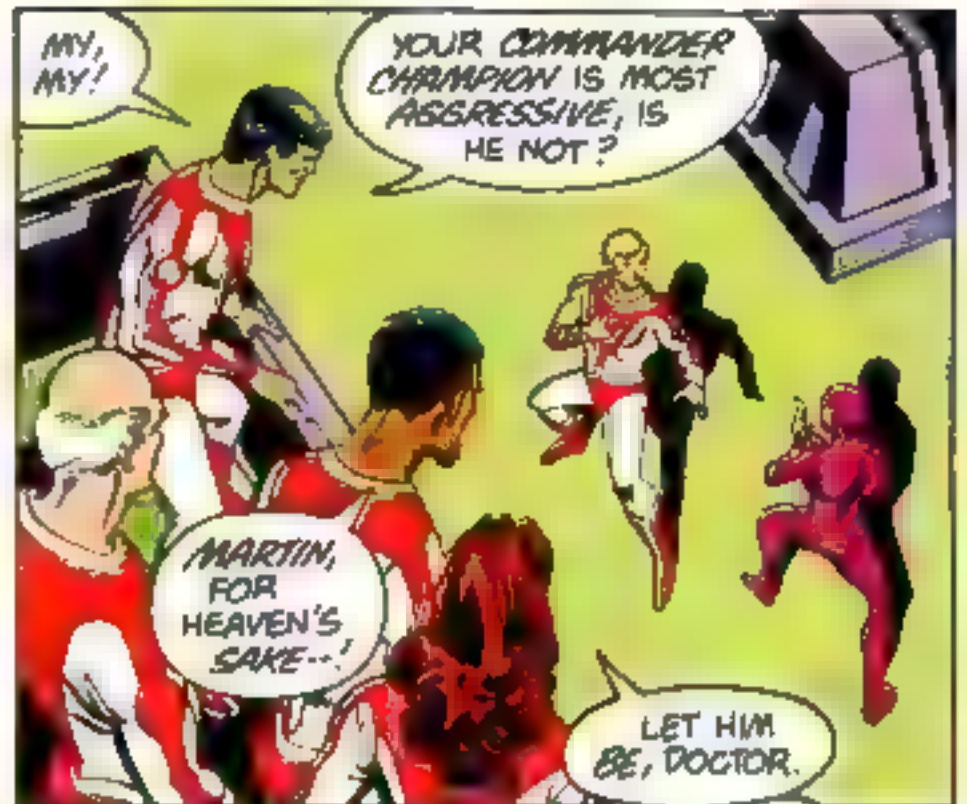
SHE'S GOT TO BE
STOPPED BEFORE SHE CAN
REACH SCANNER ONE!
SHE MIGHT BE CARRYING
EXPLOSIVES--SHE COULD
BE A SABOTEUR--!

WHATEVER SHE
IS, MR. DIRECTOR--
AND WHOEVER SHE
WORKS FOR--IT'S A SAFE
BET SHE DIDN'T WANDER
HERE LOOKING FOR
THE LADY'S WIG!



SHE'S
EQUIPPED--
AND TRAINED--
FOR COMBAT--





NOT
BAD.

YOU'RE
FAST.

SURE, AND IT'S MORE
THAN MERELY FAST THAT
I AM, COMMANDER.

WINDOSH!

I'LL
SAY!

THEY DIDN'T TEACH
US TO FIGHT WOMEN IN
THE MARINES, IF
THAT'S WHAT YOU
MEAN--

--BUT I'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN A
QUICK
STUDY!

IF THAT HAD COME
EVEN A CENTIMETER
CLOSER-- OHHH!

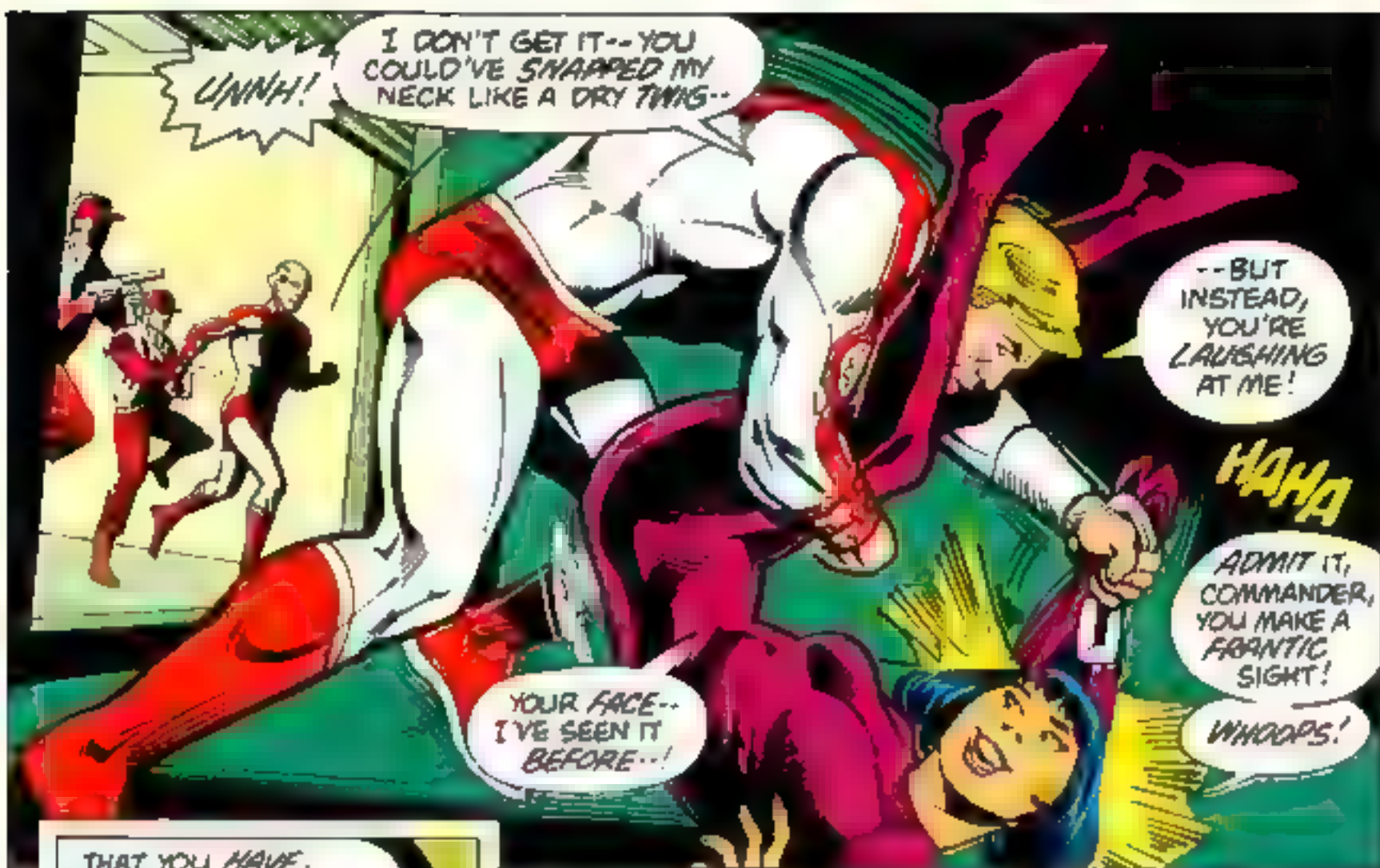
TELL THE TRUTH
NOW, COMMANDER:

'TIS MORE
OF A STRUGGLE
THAN YOU
EXPECTED,
BESTING THIS
LITTLE LASSIE!

AH, AND
IF THAT'S THE
CASE, MY
LAD--

--THEN
YOU'VE STILL GOT
A LOT TO LEARN!

YEEOW



UNNH!

I DON'T GET IT--YOU
COULD'VE SNAPPED MY
NECK LIKE A DRY TWIG--

--BUT
INSTEAD,
YOU'RE
LAUGHING
AT ME!

HABA

ADMIT IT,
COMMANDER,
YOU MAKE A
FRANTIC
SIGHT!

WHOOOPS!

YOUR FACE--
I'VE SEEN IT
BEFORE--!

THAT YOU HAVE,
COMMANDER, ON THE
INSTITUTE REPORTS:

THE NAME'S
O'ROURKE... LI SAN
O'ROURKE...

...EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF
ATARI
SECURITY!

IT'S A LITTLE FIELD
TEST OF OUR SECURITY
PERSONNEL THAT I'VE BEEN
RUNNING--AND A SORRIER
LOT OF OVER-ARMED
BUMPKINS I'VE NEVER
SEEN!


YOU LADS
DEPEND TOO
HEAVILY ON
YOUR FINE
COMPUTERS
AND SOPHIS-
TICATED
SENSORS.

SORRY IF I'VE DISRUPTED YOUR
LITTLE PARTY, MR. DIRECTOR, BUT
AS YOU KNOW, ATARI HAS ITS
ENEMIES--AND VICIOUS THEY
ARE, TOO, SINCE THE WAR.

WE HAVE TO PROTECT
OURSELVES--AND THAT
MEANS WE MUST BE
CONSTANTLY ALERT!

YOU'LL HAVE
NO ARGUMENT
ON THAT FROM
ME, O'ROURKE.

IN FACT,
I'M GLAD
YOU'RE
HERE...



...SINCE I WAS ABOUT TO SUMMON YOU, WHEN OUR "PARTY," AS YOU CALL IT, WAS SO RUDELY CRASHED!

O'ROURKE, YOU'RE THE FIFTH AND FINAL MEMBER OF A NEW TEAM WE'VE DESIGNATED THE **ATARI FORCE!**

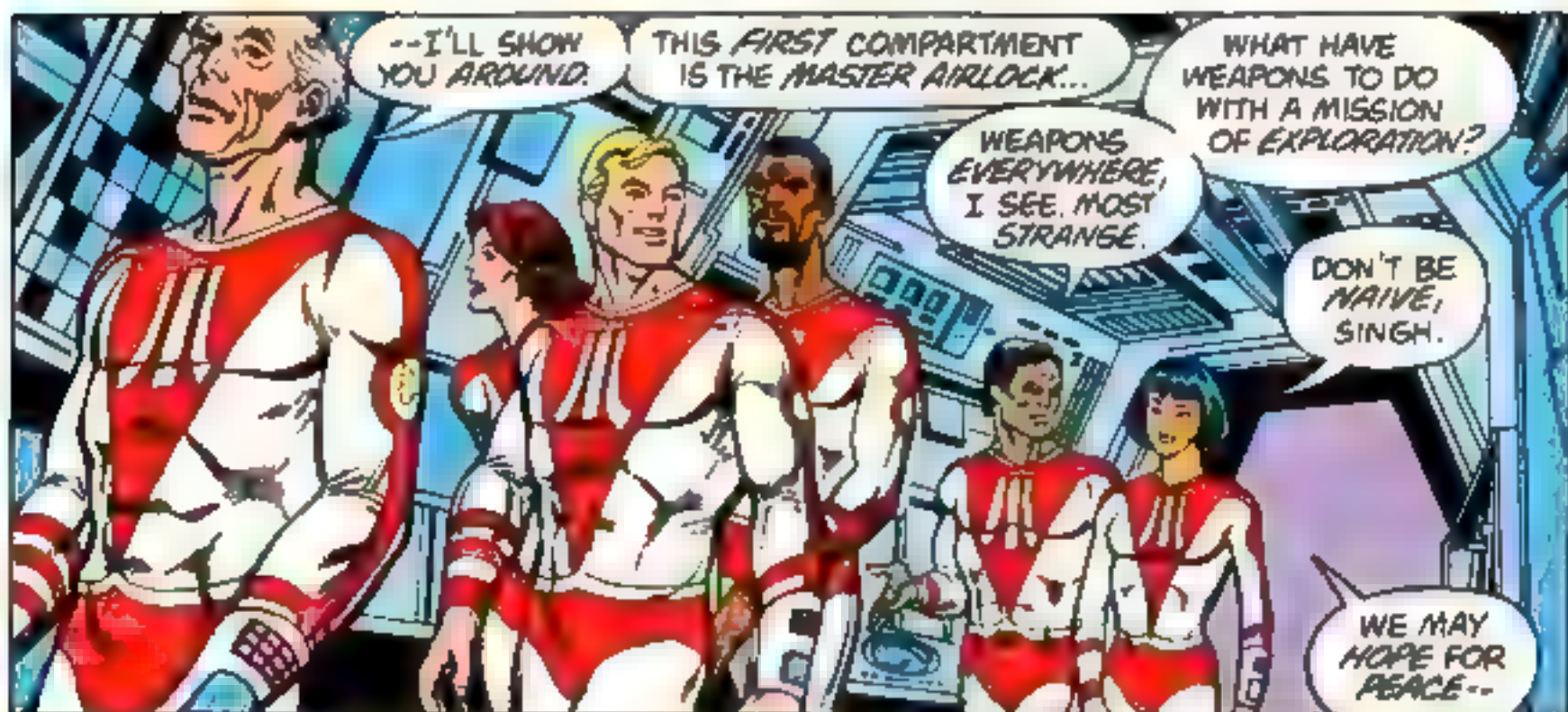
OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, WHILE YOU WERE ATTENDING TO YOUR REGULAR DUTIES, EACH OF YOU RECEIVED EXTRA TRAINING IN THE OPERATION OF A NEW COMPUTER--


--THE **ATARI 8000**, THE MOST ADVANCED CYBERNETIC "BRAIN" EVER DESIGNED!

THE **ATARI 8000** IS THE GUIDANCE COMPUTER OF THIS VESSEL, **SCANNER ONE**.

THUS, WITHOUT KNOWING IT--FOR REASONS OF SECURITY--YOU'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR MONTHS FOR THIS, THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT OF YOUR LIVES!

NOW, IF YOU'LL WATCH YOUR STEP--





"DURING THE FIRST HOURS OF THE WAR, AFTER THE ATTACK ON NASA'S LUNAR COLONY THAT STARTED THE WHOLE MESS, THE ENEMY OCCUPIED A MAJOR OIL FIELD IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA.

"OUR MISSION WAS TO FREE THE OIL FIELD WITHOUT GIVING THE ENEMY A CHANCE TO DESTROY IT.

"I WAS A LIEUTENANT... IN CHARGE OF MY OWN SQUAD.

"SAINTS PRESERVE ME, BUT I THOUGHT I WAS GOD'S SPECIAL CHILD, AND THAT NOTHING COULD HARM ME."

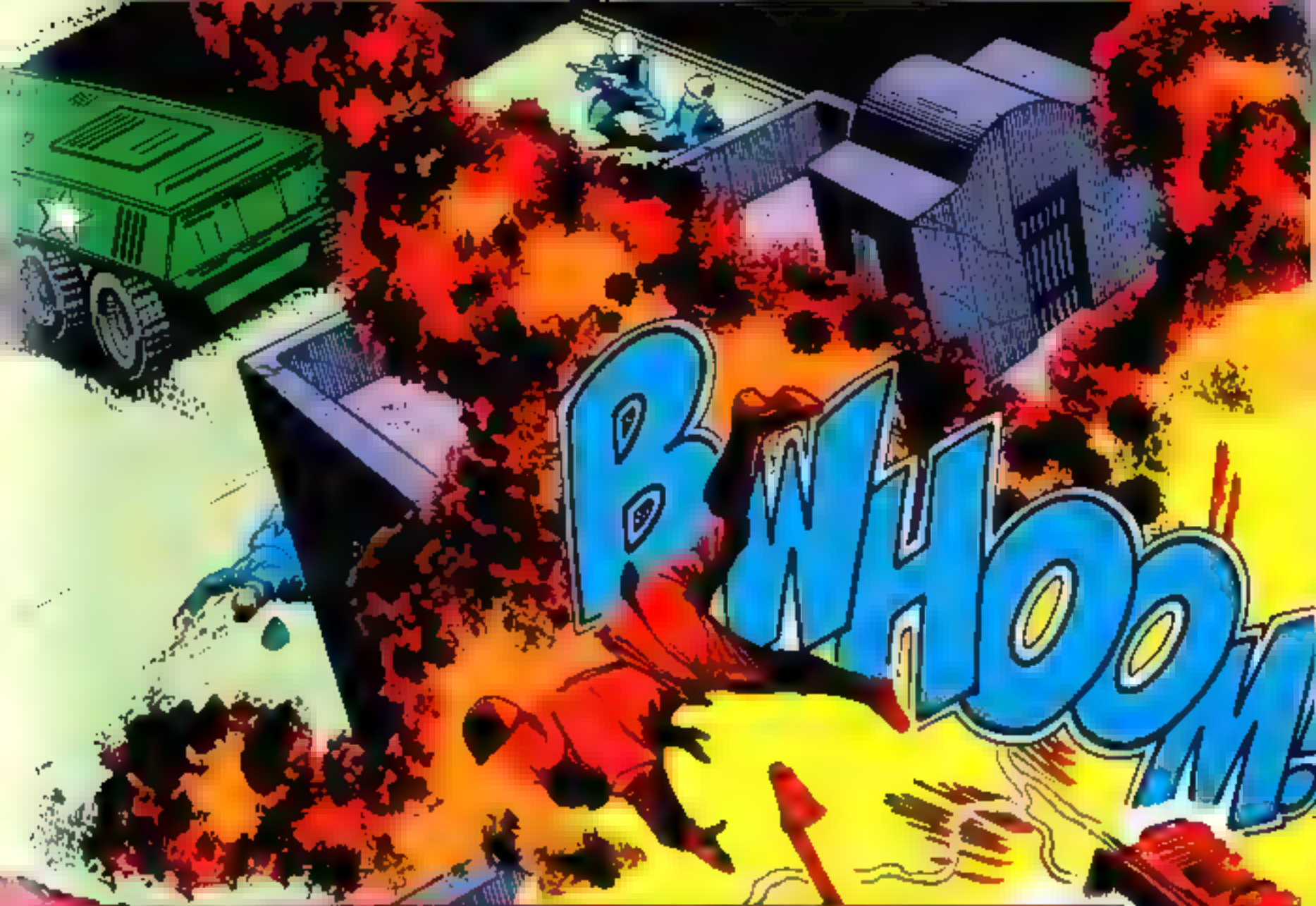
CHAPTER THREE:

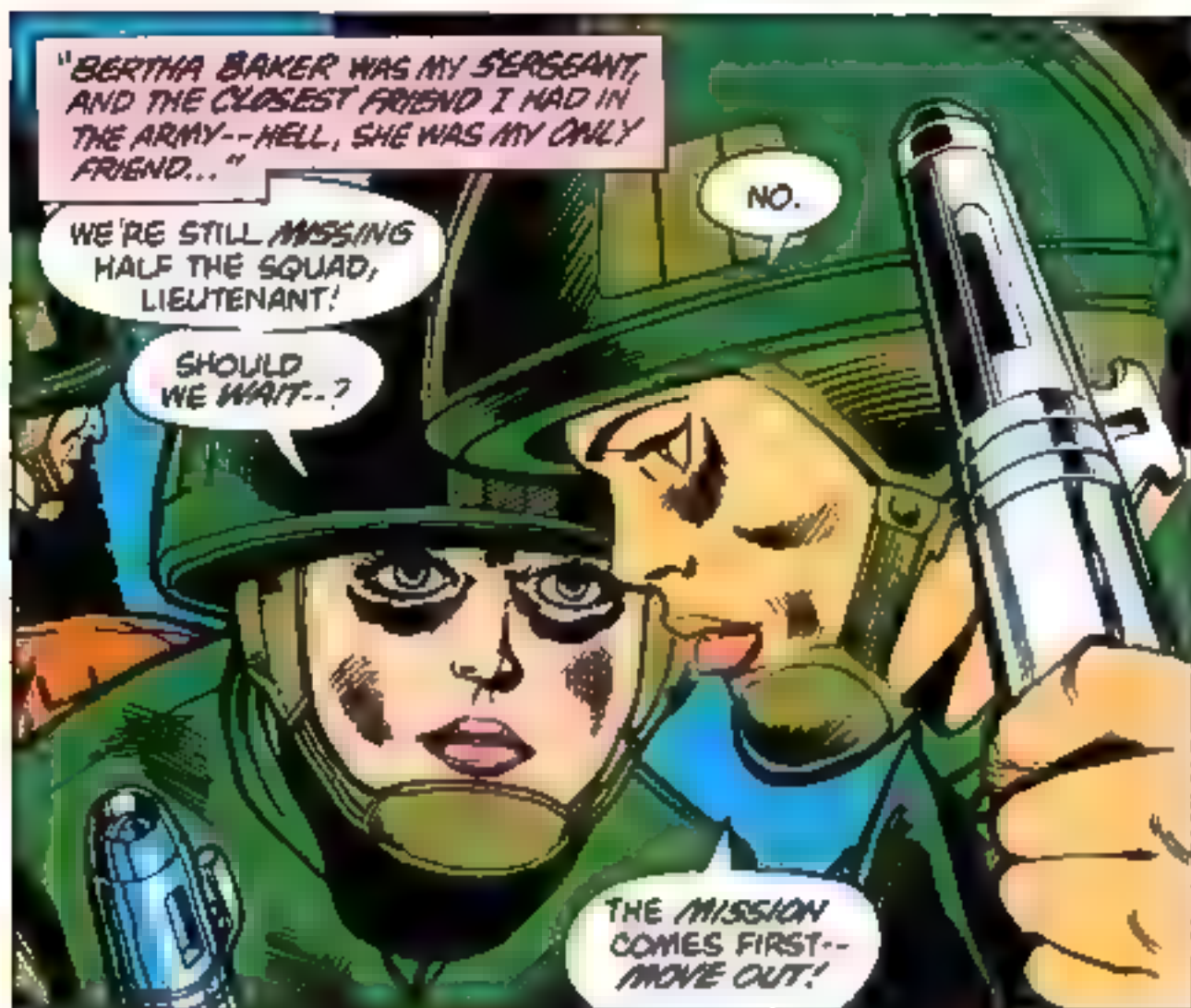
SPOILS OF WAR


"I WAS ALMOST
RIGHT."

THAT'S ONE LESS
ANTI-AIRCRAFT LASER
TO BE BURNIN' OUR
LADS LIKE TARGETS
AT A SHEET SHOOT!









"I WINCED AT THE DISAPPROVAL
IN HER TONE, BUT AFTER ALL, WE
WERE SOLDIERS-- WE WERE PAID
TO TAKE RISKS; IT WAS OUR
DUTY AND OUR HONOR.

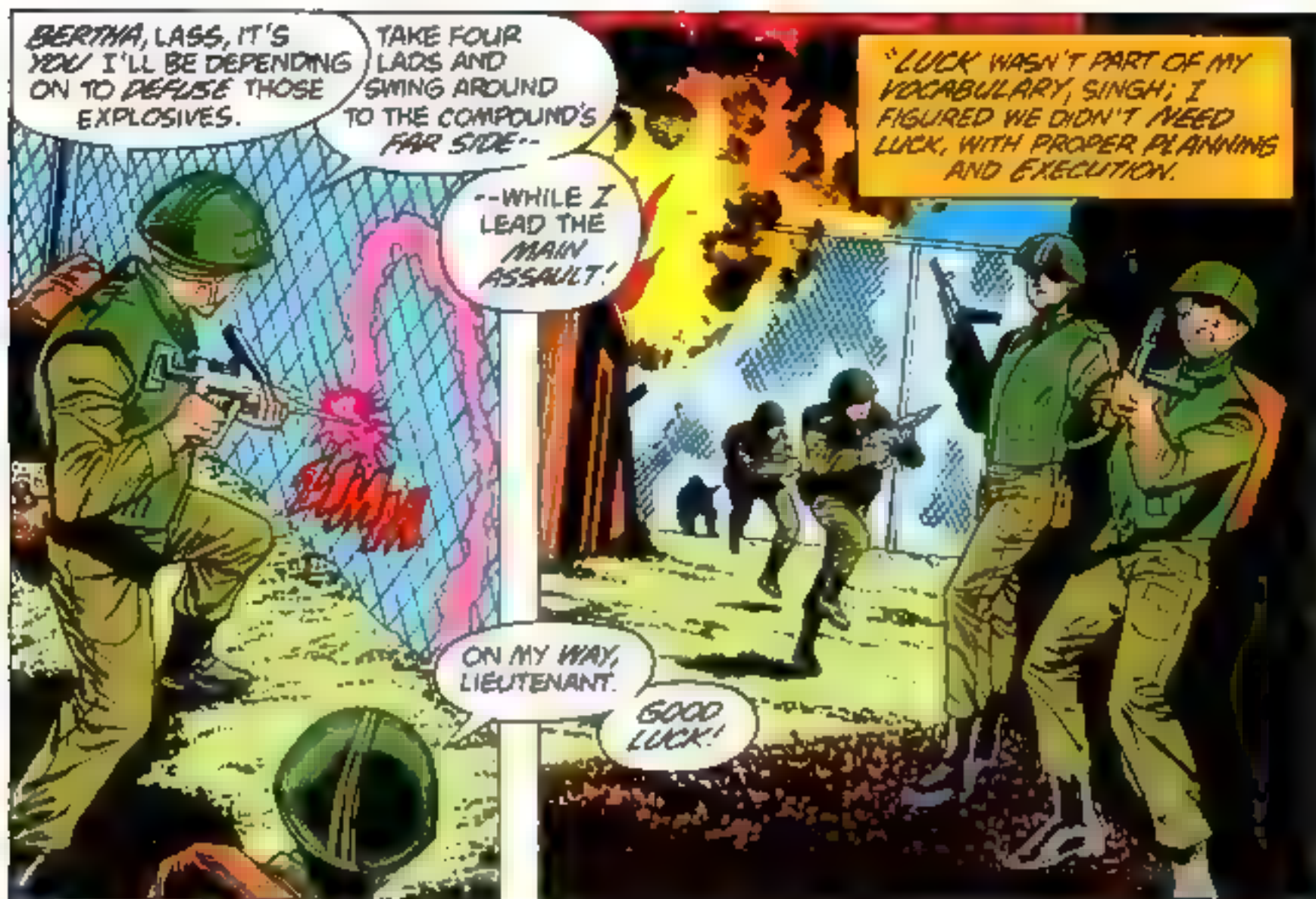
"THE OTHERS WOULD JUST
HAVE TO CATCH UP..."

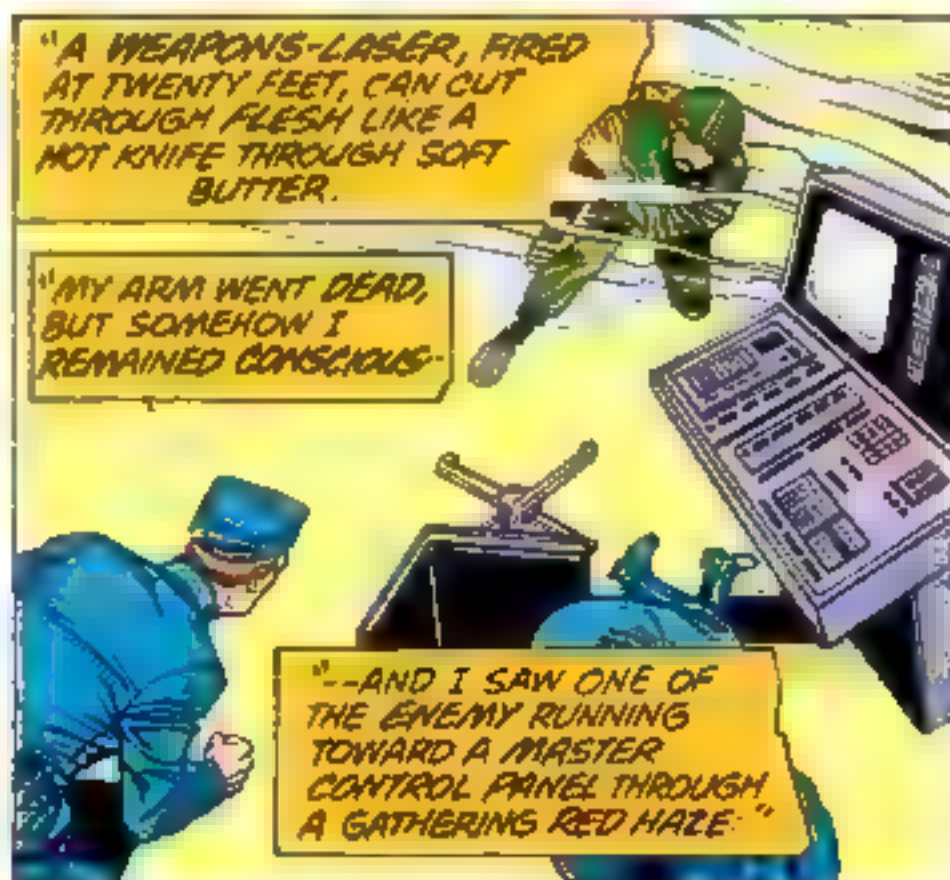
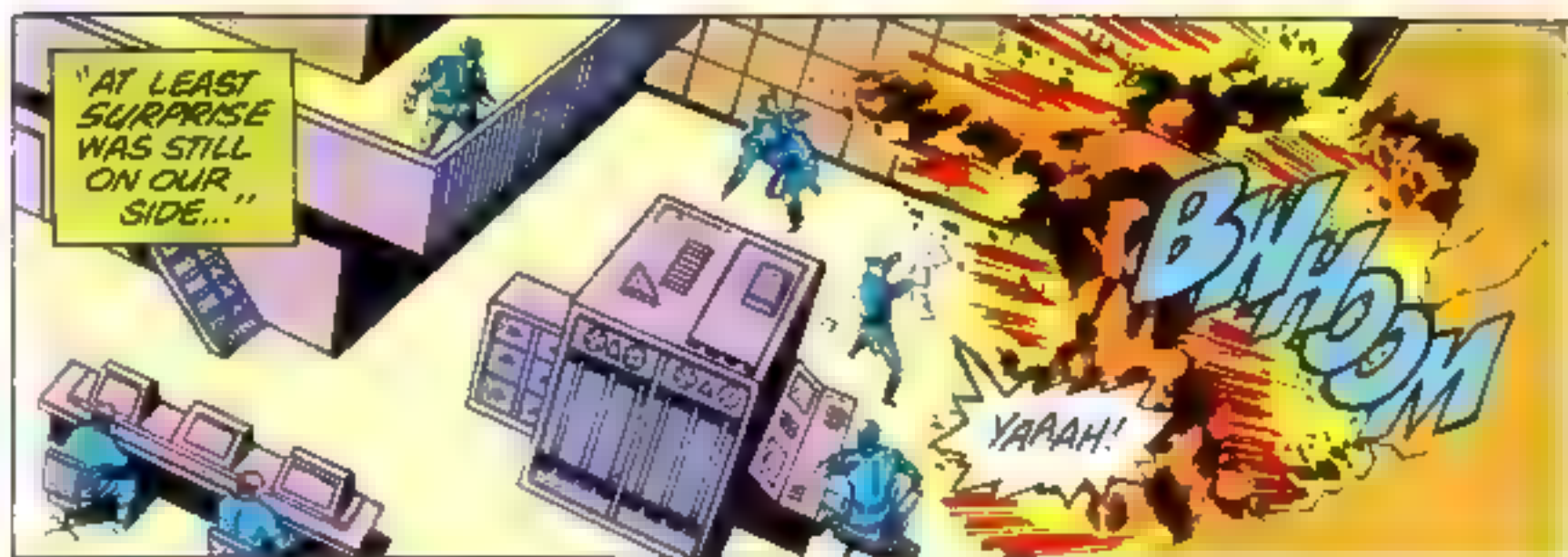
"...IF
THEY
COULD"

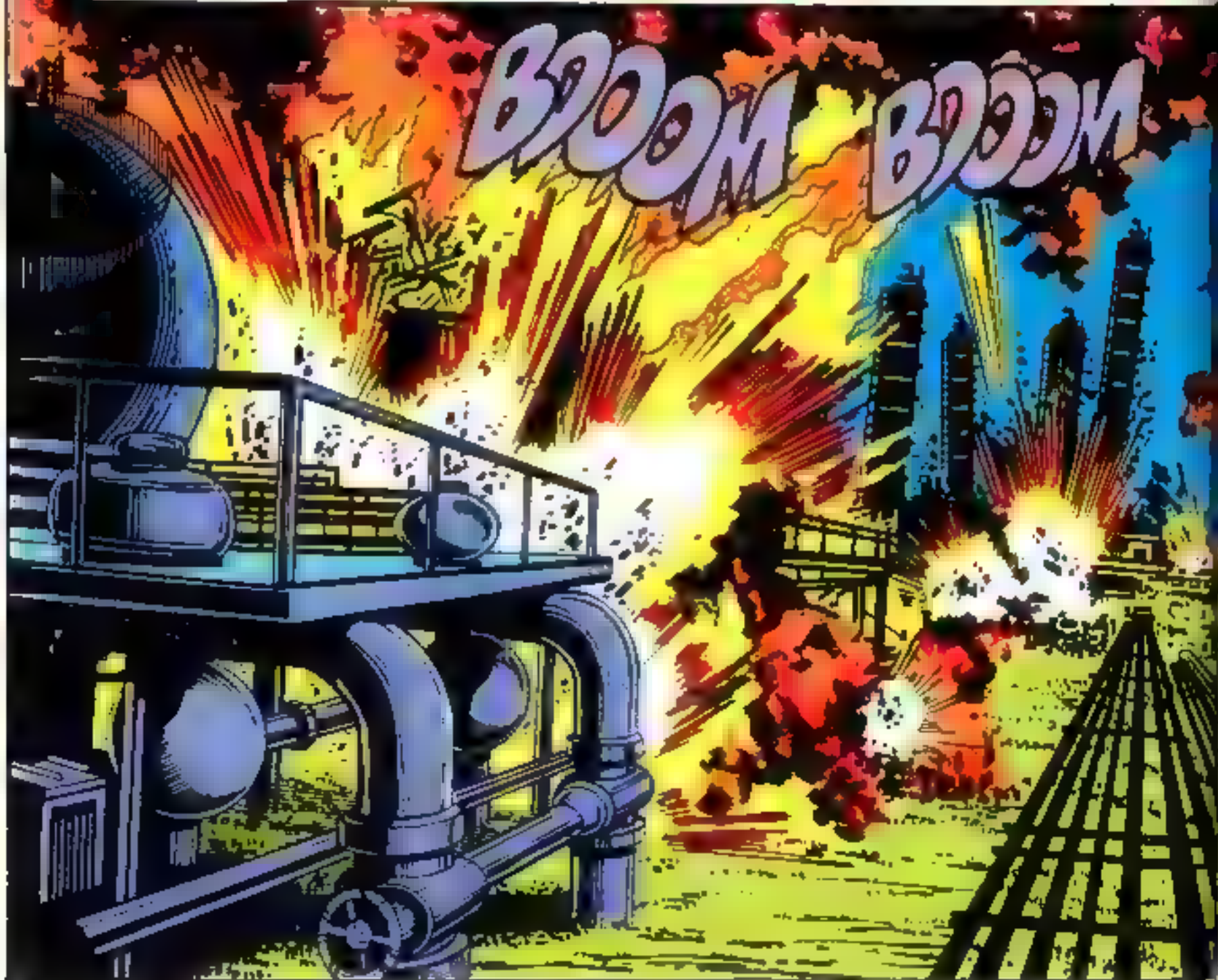


OUR FLYBOYS
ARE LAYING DOWN
A COVERING
BOMBARDMENT.

WE HAVE TO GET INSIDE--
DEFUSE THE EXPLOSIVES--
AND CLEAN OUT THOSE
BUNKERS!

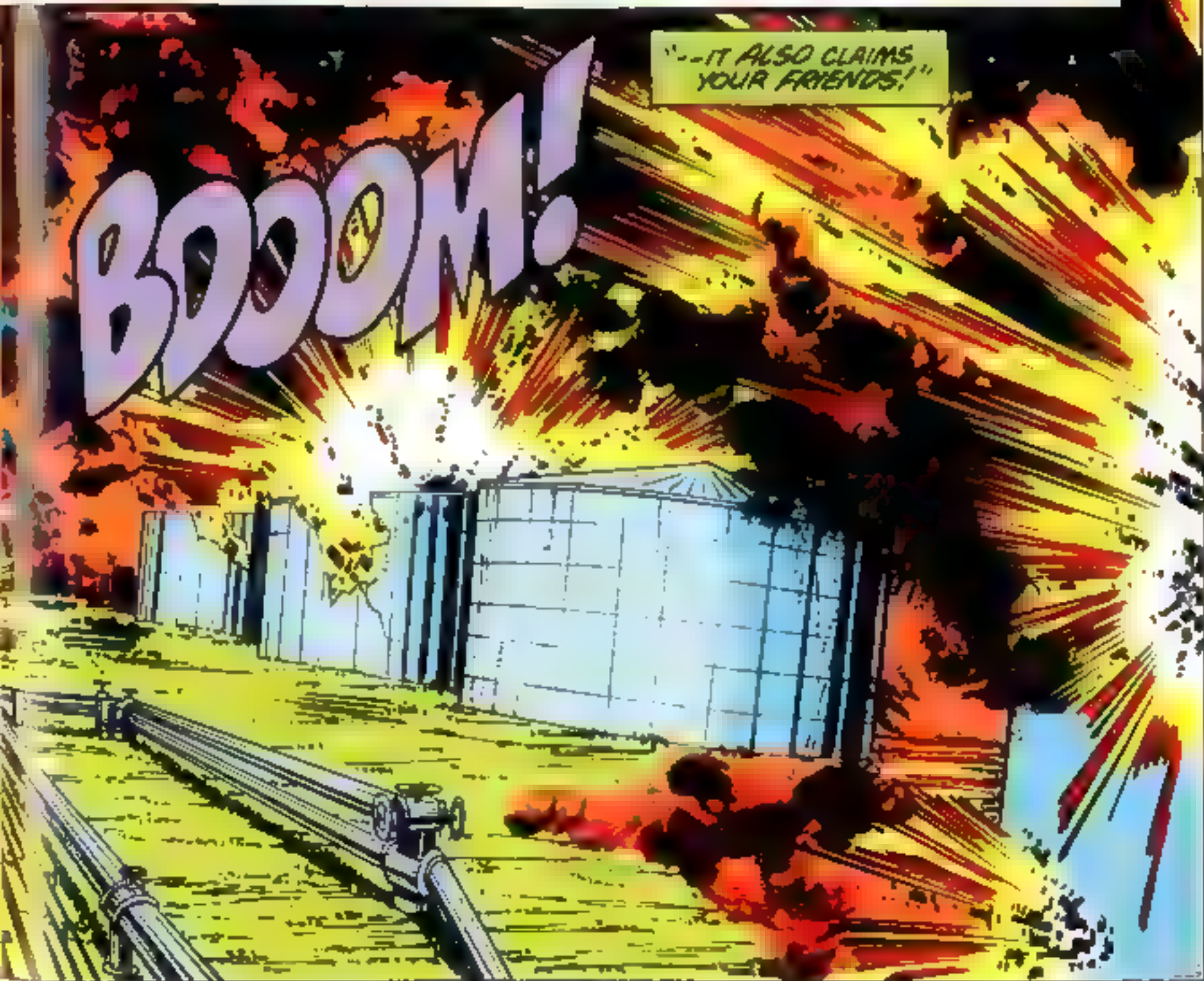
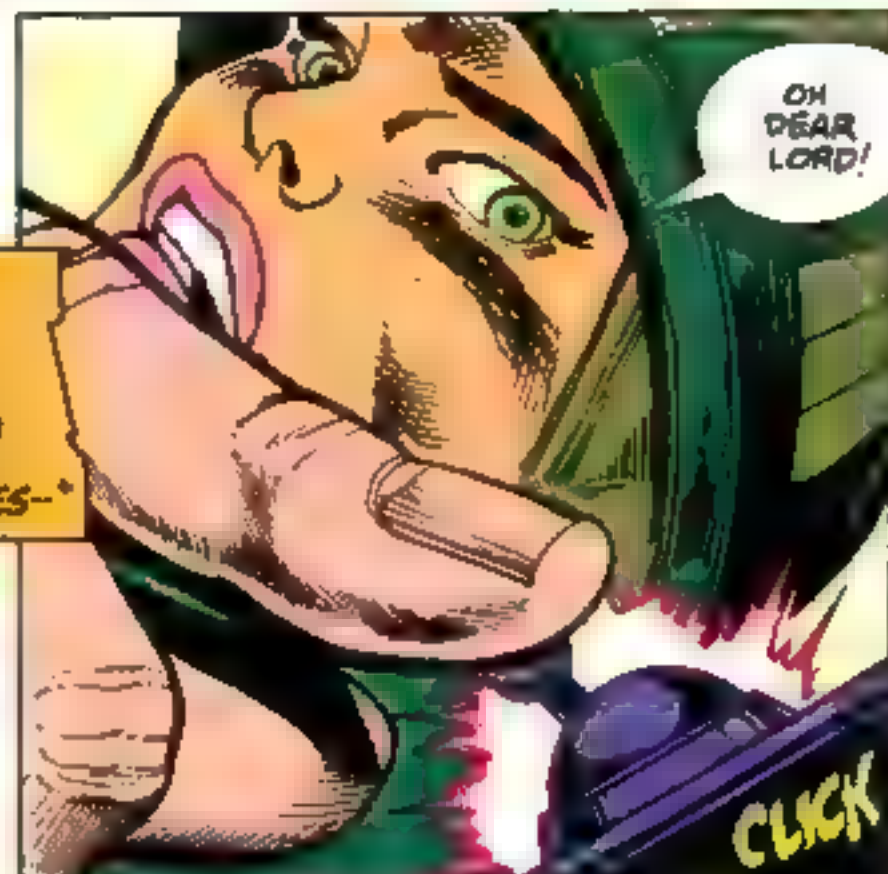




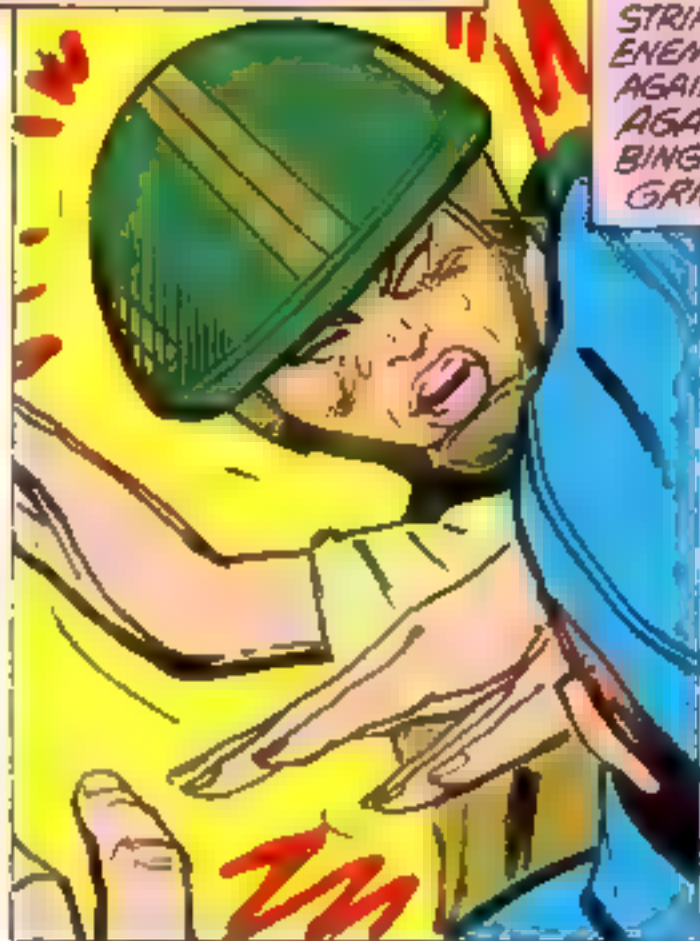




"NOT ONLY DOES WAR CLAIM YOUR ENEMIES--"



"THE EXPLOSIONS ECHOED
LIKE NEAR THUNDER-- BUT
I DIDN'T HEAR THEM.



"I'D GONE CRAZY--
STRIKING THAT
ENEMY SOLDIER
AGAIN AND
AGAIN, SOB-
BING WITH
GRIEF--

"--UNTIL, FINALLY,
MY MEN HAD TO
DRAG ME AWAY.



"YOU SEE, SINGH, I
THOUGHT GOD WAS
ON MY SIDE... THAT
I COULDN'T BE
HURT.



"BUT I'D FORGOTTEN
THAT SOME OF WAR'S
WORST WOUNDS...
ARE THE WOUNDS YOU
NEVER SEE."

FORGIVE ME, LI SAN, BUT UNDER
THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I AM SURPRISED
YOU'RE NOT A PACIFIST.

BUT I
AM,
SINGH.

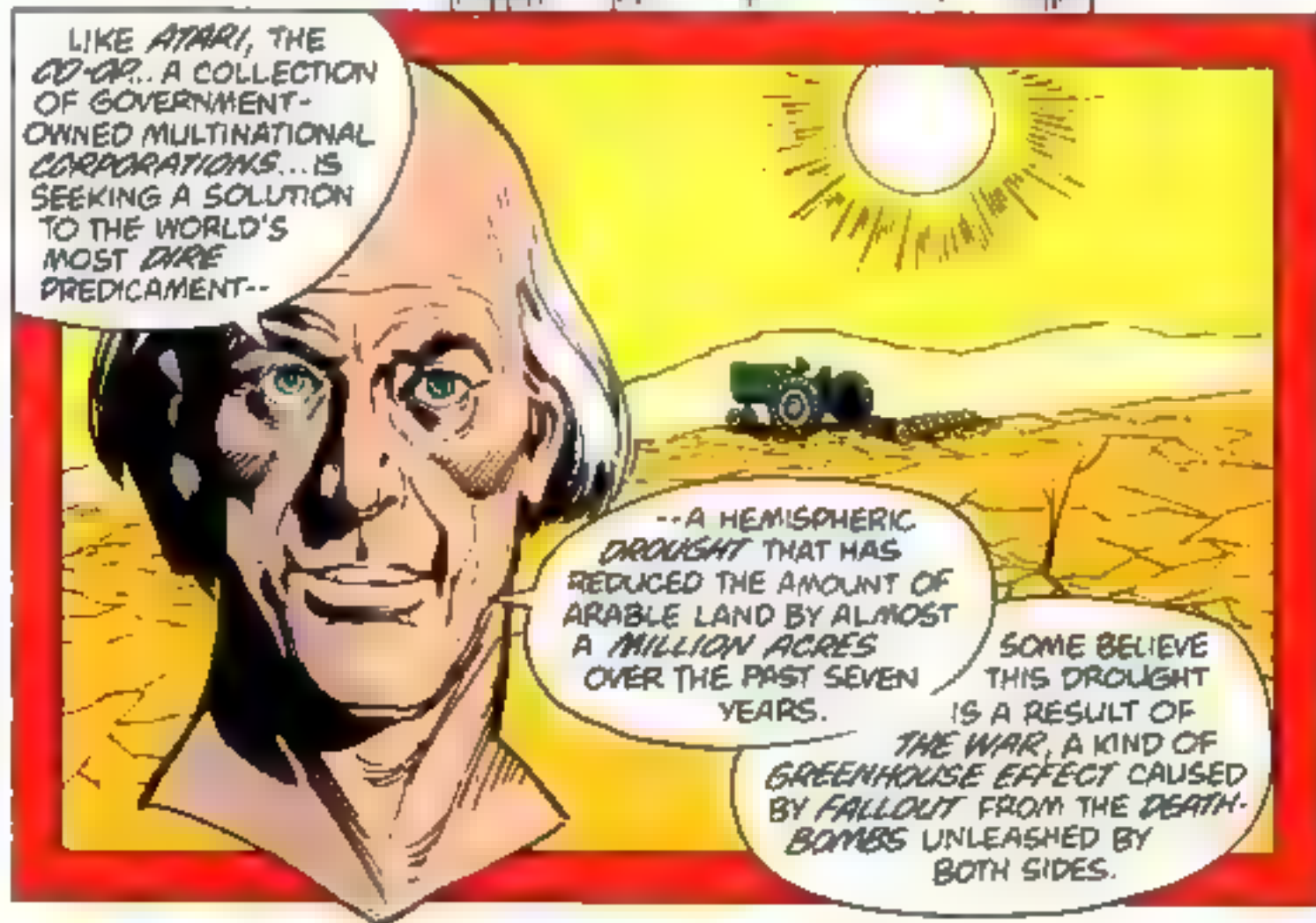
AFTER THE WAR,
I QUIT THE ARMY--
AND JOINED ATARI.

BEING WILLING
TO DEFEND YOURSELF
--AND BEING A
PACIFIST--ARE NOT
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE!

IF YOU
SAY SO,
LI SAN.

I FEAR
DOCTOR
ORION MIGHT
NOT AGREE!





FORTUNATELY, ONLY TWO DEATH-BOMBS WERE EXPLODED IN THOSE LAST HOURS BEFORE OUR ENEMY'S GOVERNMENT COLLAPSED--

--OTHERWISE, WE WOULD NOT BE STANDING HERE TODAY.

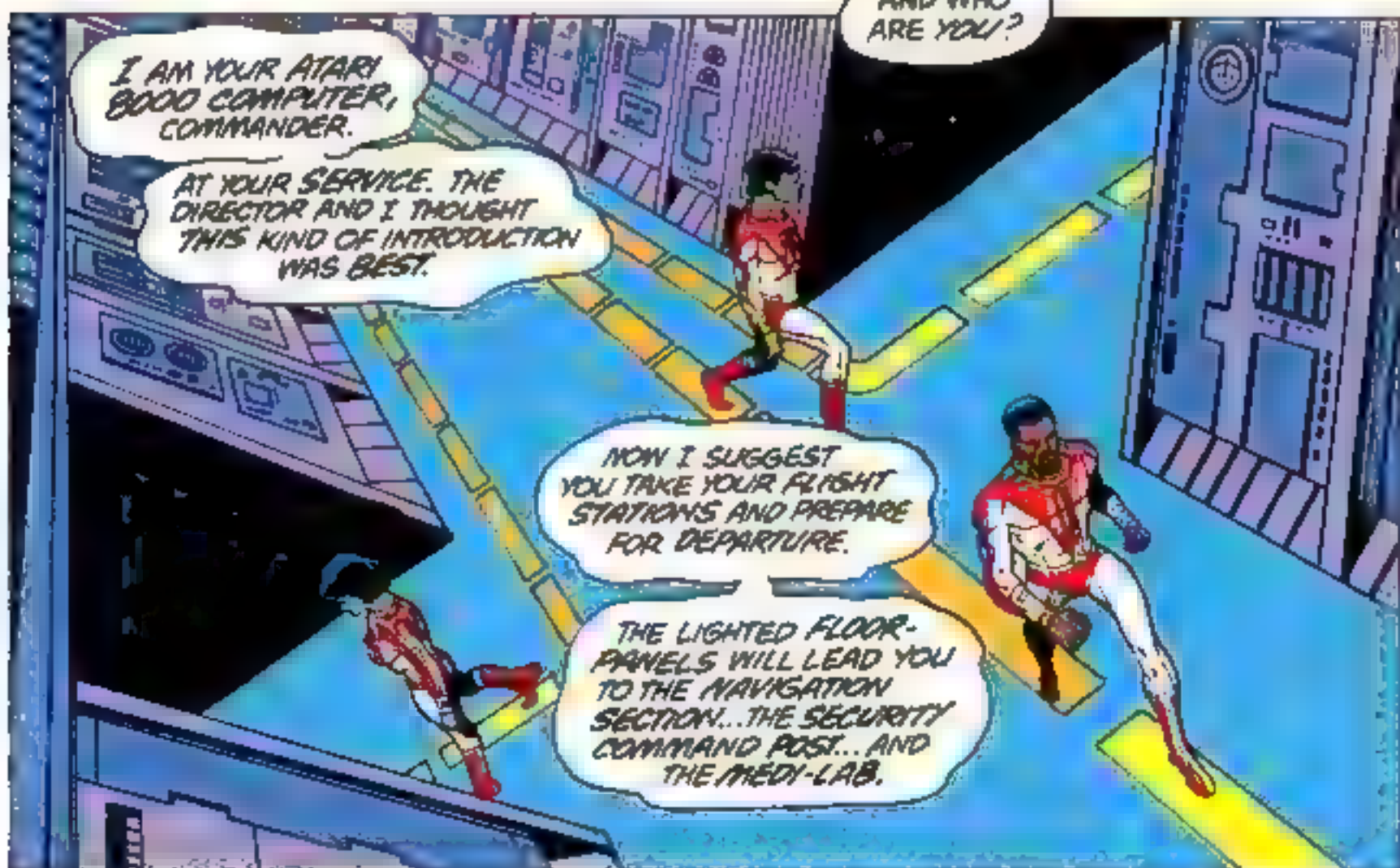
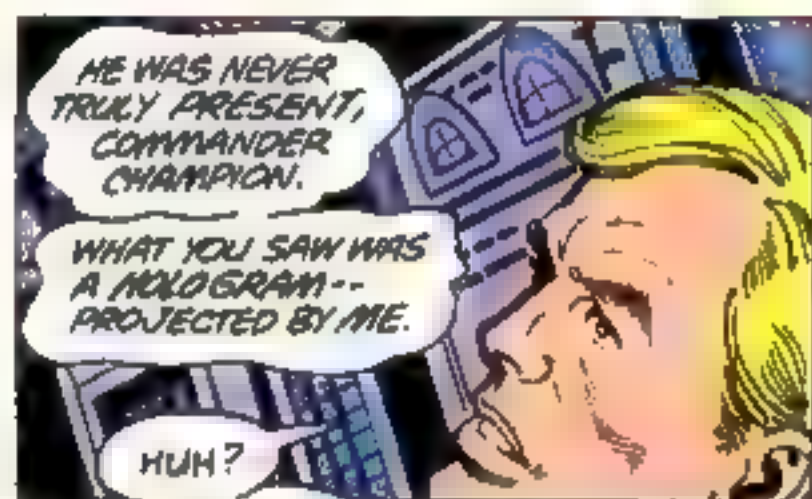
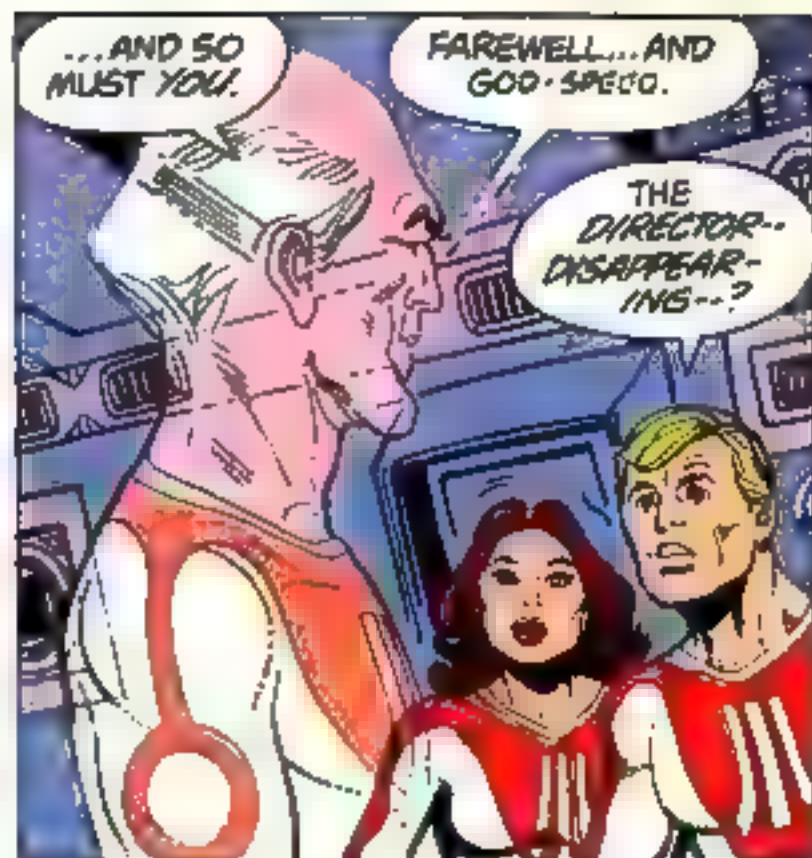
IN ANY CASE, EVEN THOUGH GREATLY REDUCED-- THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS IN DANGER OF IMMINENT STARVATION!

PROJECT MULTIVERSE IS AN ATTEMPT TO ALLEVIATE POTENTIAL FAMINE --BY LOCATING INHABITABLE WORLDS AMONG THE INFINITY OF ALTERNATE REALITIES EXISTING IN OTHER DIMENSIONS PARALLEL TO OUR OWN!

SUCH WORLDS MAY BE PRIMITIVE JUNGLES--

--FUTURISTIC PARADISES--

--OR UNDERWATER WONDERLANDS! EACH WILL BE UNIQUE, WITH ITS OWN CULTURE, ITS OWN HISTORY!



WE'LL BEGIN WITH A
SHORT TRIP--JUST A
FEW DIMENSIONS--AS
A WARM-UP, YOU
UNDERSTAND.

IS EVERYONE
COMFORTABLE?

SECURITY
OFFICER
O'ROURKE?

'TIS ALL HAPPENING
SO FAST, MY HEAD'S
BEEN SENT TO
SPINNING!



BUT TO ANSWER
YOUR QUESTION, LADDIE--
AYE, I'M AS COMFORTABLE
AS A LEPRECHAUN WITH
HIS OWN POT OF GOLD!

EXCELLENT. AND YOU,
FLIGHT ENGINEER SINSH?

I AM BREATHLESS AND
AWED, BUT SUCH, AFTER ALL,
IS THE NATURAL CONDITION
OF MAN.

OTHER
THAN
THAT--



--I TOO
AM QUITE
COMFORTABLE.

NO NEED TO ASK
HOW I'M DOING,
COMPUTER.

MY GREATEST DESIRE
IS TO HELP HUMANITY
RECOVER FROM THE
MADNESS OF THE
WAR.

THIS IS LIKE
A DREAM COME
TRUE.



I TAKE THAT AS
AN AFFIRMATIVE,
DOCTOR COMMANDER
CHAMPION... MISSION
PILOT PEREZ...

...ARE YOU
READY?

I CAN'T SPEAK
FOR MY EXECUTIVE
OFFICER, COMPUTER--

--BUT I'M
STRAINING AT
THE BIT.

ONE POINT,
THOUGH--DON'T WE
NEED SOME HANGAR
DOORS UP THERE?



HOW DO
WE GET
OUT?

WE DON'T NEED
HANGAR DOORS,
COMMANDER--

--BECAUSE WE ARE
NOT TRAVELING
THROUGH SPACE, NOR
EVEN THROUGH
TIME!

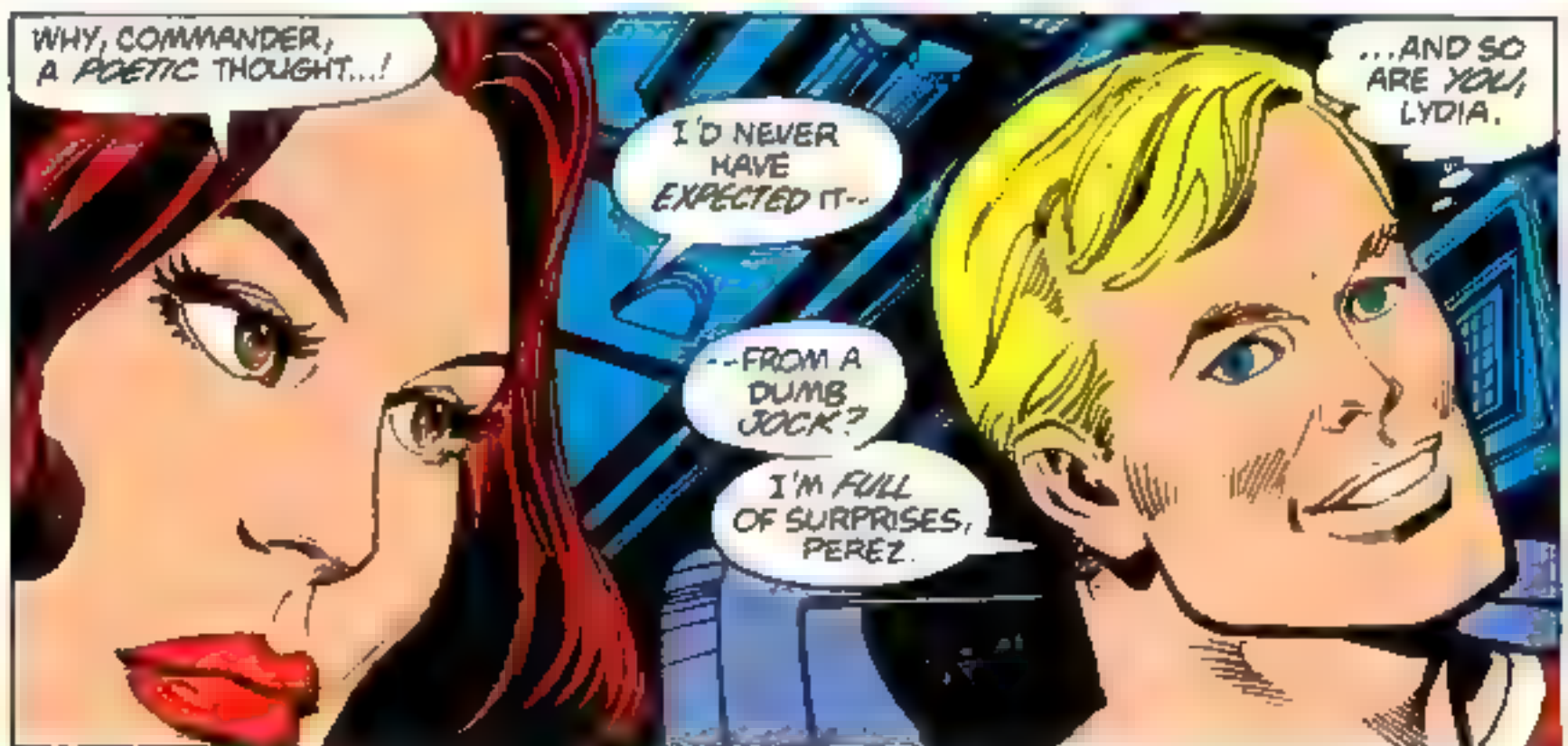
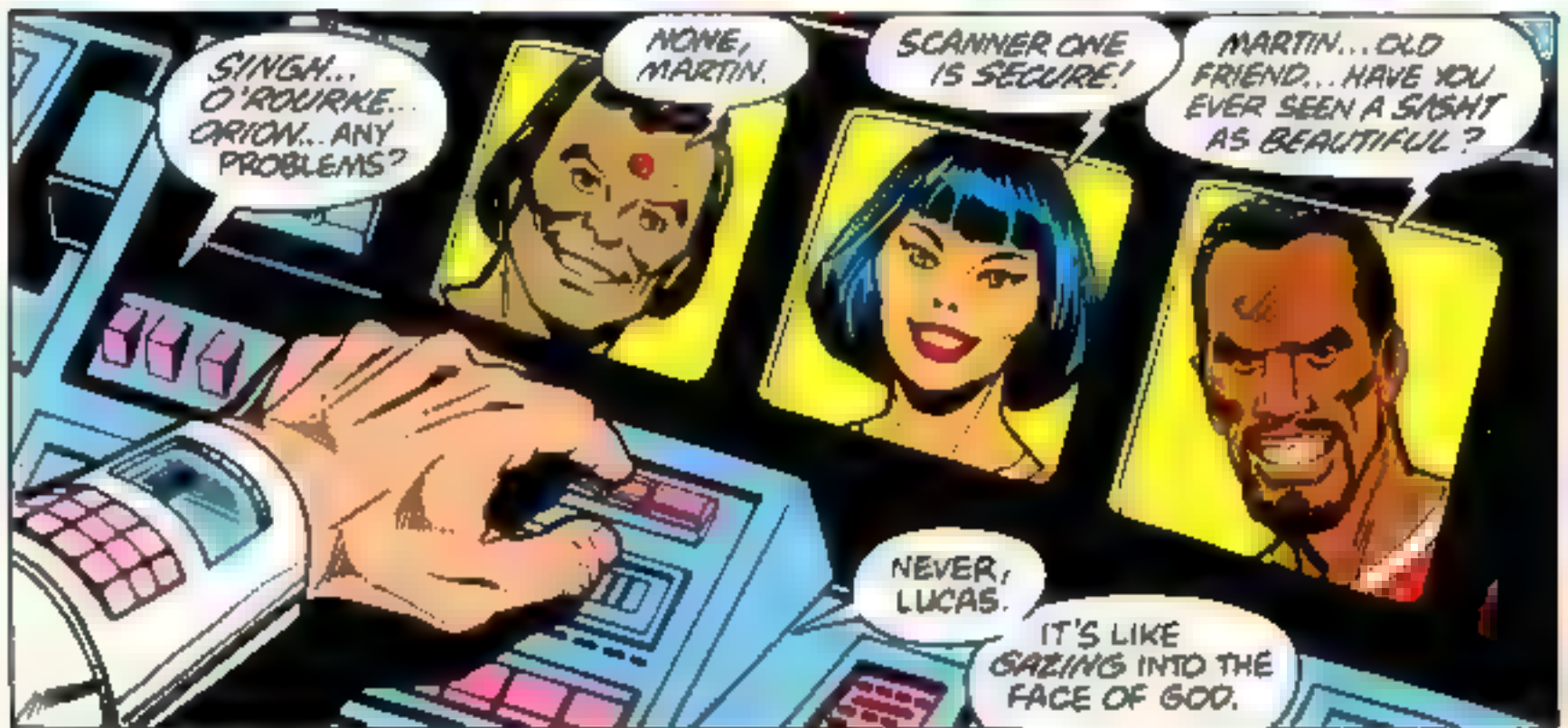
OUR
VOYAGE IS
THROUGH
MULTIPLE
DIMENSIONS!




LIKE THE
CHESHIRE CAT IN
"ALICE IN WONDER-
LAND," WE SHALL BE
HERE ONE MOMENT,
AND IN THE NEXT
MOMENT, WE SHALL
BE--

MMMM

GONE!





BEFORE THIS TRIP
IS OVER, I'M GOING TO
FIND OUT WHAT'S
BUSTING YOU,
PEREZ.

I THOUGHT WE
WERE FRIENDS--BUT
YOU'VE BEEN CRITICAL
OF ME EVER SINCE
WE GOT BACK
TOGETHER!

THE MYSTERIES OF
THE MULTIVERSE AREN'T
THE ONLY MYSTERIES
WE'RE GOING TO UNRAVEL
ON THIS VOYAGE.

THAT'S A
PROMISE!

FOR NOW--THE END!

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